Proceedings taken before Tracye Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter, ACCR No. 294, and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large, at the State Capitol Auditorium, Montgomery, Alabama, on February 4, 2012, commencing at approximately 9:00 a.m.
BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Dan L. Moultrie, Chairman
Mr. N. Gunter Guy, Jr., Commissioner
Mr. John McMillan
Mr. Bill Hatley
Dr. Bob Shipp
Mr. Austin Ainsworth
Dr. Warren Strickland
Mr. Raymond Jones, Jr.
Mr. Grady Hartzog
Dr. Gary Lemme
Mr. Joseph Dobbs, Jr.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

INDEX

CALL TO ORDER 3
INVOCATION 3
INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS 5
APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 10
DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS 11
PUBLIC HEARING 22
DISTRICT REPORTS 164
NEW BUSINESS 189

Motion by Mr. Strickland – Approval 203
of all DCNR Regulations Since Last Approval

OLD BUSINESS 206

SELECTION OF DATE AND LOCATION OF 215
MARCH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The February 4th, 2012, meeting of the Conservation Advisory Board will come to order. I would like to welcome everyone to Montgomery, Alabama. The board is glad that you are able to be here today.

I'm going to depart from our agenda a little bit and call on an avid hunter and fisherman in the state and a very dear friend. And I think all of you know him very well. But for the invocation I would like to call to the podium Mr. Bill "Bubba" Bussey. Bill.

MR. BUSSEY: Thank you, sir. Could we stand, take our hats off. Would that be all right?

Y'all pray with me, please.

Heavenly Father, we humble ourselves before your presence today, and we ask that you forgive us of our many shortcomings. Father, we thank you for our country and our state and the freedoms that we have and the rights and
privileges you have granted to us.

Father, we just ask that you continue to bless our nation and our state. And, Father, we ask for the guidance of these elected officials and these commissions as they move forward in the important rules of enjoying our natural resources.

Father, we know that the creation is a gift that you meant for us and that we were to subdue it and to manage it in a way that was appropriate to you. Father, we ask that you open the minds and hearts and you give us the guidance to do that correctly in a way that will be pleasing to you. In the name of your son, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Bill, thank you very much. And everybody thinks Rick gives the best prayer. We know now.

Mr. Hatley, I think there's something you wanted to add during the invocation time.
MR. HATLEY: Yes, Commissioner -- I mean, Chairman.

Last night in Mobile, Alabama, we had a police officer who was killed in the line of duty, another who was wounded. I would like for us to remember their families in prayer. And, also, a friend of this board and of the Conservation Department, Mr. Pete Barber, who is also from south Alabama, is in serious condition.

So as you go home and tonight as you offer your prayers, please consider both of these families as time goes forward. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

For the next order of business, I would like to have the introduction of the board members.

First I'm going to introduce our commissioner, Mr. Gunter Guy. Gunter.

Secondly, I'd introduce our assistant commissioner, Mr. Curtis
Jones. Curtis.

Next I'd like to introduce Alabama's agriculture commissioner, Mr. John McMillan. John.

MR. McMILLAN: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Our other ex-officio member here today is Dr. Gary Lemme from the Alabama Extension Service. He replaces longtime board member Dr. Gaines Smith who is retiring.

Dr. Lemme becomes the third director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension Office. Dr. Lemme comes to the Alabama Extension from South Dakota State University where he has been most recently a professor in the Department of Plant Science. A soil scientist by training, he is also the former dean of the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences. He holds both bachelor's and master's degrees from South Dakota State. He completed his doctoral work at the University of
Nebraska.

In addition to his tenure at South Dakota University, Dr. Lemme has held a variety of leadership positions at several land grant institutions, including Michigan State, the University of Minnesota -- and I knew when I read this last one he was our kind of guy -- at the University of Hawaii. So if y'all would welcome Dr. Lemme.

Next I'll start at the end with Mr. Dobbs. And I'd like for the district members of the board to give their name and what district they represent.

Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: Joey Dobbs, 6th Congressional District.

MR. HARTZOG: Grady Hartzog, the 2nd Congressional District.

MR. JONES: Raymond Jones, 5th Congressional District.

DR. STRICKLAND: Warren Strickland, 5th
Congressional District.

MR. AINSWORTH: Austin Ainsworth, 4th Congressional District.

DR. SHIPP: Bob Shipp, 1st Congressional District.

MR. HATLEY: Bill Hatley, 1st Congressional District.

CHAIRMAN MOULTON: And then that has the board.

I would, also, at this time like to give special recognition to outgoing board member George Harbin who couldn't be here today because of health reasons, also special recognition -- Dr. Smith. Are you here, Dr. Smith? Could you come up?

Dr. Gaines Smith, who's retiring, and a guy from the University of Hawaii replacing him.

And, Commissioner, if you'd like to present Dr. Smith from the board and all game and fish for your service.

COMMISSIONER GUY: We want to thank you so
much for your service over all these
years, and we wish you the best of luck
in the future. Thank you for what
you've done for us.

DR. SMITH: Thank you. You know, we in our
state are blessed with just an
unbelievable rich set of resources --
natural resources that we all enjoy on a
day-to-day basis out here. And the
activities of the three groups that are
represented here today make that
possible and to continue for the many,
many future generations. The board,
your advice, the professional managers
we've got down here and all of -- and I
put myself as a user with you guys and
ladies out here now. That's the process
that makes it all work and carries it
forward. It's my privilege to have been
a part of it for the last 20 or so
years. Thank you, both Commissioner and
Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN MOULTON: Thank you, Gaines. Thank
you, Gaines.

Also, during this time I'd like to give recognition again to the two new board members, Dr. Gary Lemme and replacing George Harbin is Mr. Austin Ainsworth, who comes with a very good pedigree of the game and fish industry himself. So, Austin, we're glad to have you on the board.

Thank you today for all board members in attendance.

The next order of business is the approval of the March 12th, 2011, and the May 14th, 2011, minutes. The minutes -- the March meeting minutes are due to be approved, also, today because of incomplete minutes in some of the board members' packets for the May meeting.

Are there any changes to the minutes?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTERIE: If not, the minutes stand
approved as read.

The next order of business is the DCNR departmental reports. I'd like to call on Commissioner Guy to introduce each department. Commissioner Guy.

COMMISSIONER GUY: At this time I'm going to call on Fred Harders to give a report for Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. Fred is our acting director at this time with our former director having retired, Corky Pugh. So he's doing a fine job. And at this time, Fred, if you would give us your report.

MR. HARDERS: Good morning.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Good morning.

MR. HARDERS: As Commissioner mentioned, Corky Pugh, director, retired. In your packet you have our report which goes into detail.

We filled a few vacancies with conservation officers in Barbour, Marengo, Monroe, and Tuscaloosa County. One important thing I'd like to point
out is the devastating tornadoes we had in April. Our folks responded and, as always, did a wonderful job.

There's a lot of information in the report. I don't want to take up a lot of time. So, if you would, if you have any questions about this, you can ask me. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Fred.

Is Chris Blankenship -- okay.

Chris, Marine Resources director.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, Commissioner.

All of y'all have been provided a packet that had a lot of detailed information about the activities of the Marine Resources Division this past year, but I do want to take an opportunity just to mention a couple of quick things.

We had some regulations that were changed in legislation in the last couple of years that dealt with oysters. And we had a successful small
oyster season this year. Everything looks great for the future, and I appreciate all the work that you've done with the regulations to make that happen. In this next upcoming year and years future we should have a very good oyster harvest, you know, thanks to these management plans.

The commercial fisheries are back this year a little bit, and more people are back fishing. And same with the recreational fisheries. We sold more fishing licenses this year than we've ever sold in our time that we've worked here. And a lot of people that because of the oil spill had missed fishing, I think, came back this year in droves. And so it's been very good for the economy down there with the tourism and everything else. I just wanted -- any other information that -- any questions about any stuff in the packet, I'll be here and be glad to answer. Thank you.
COMMISSIONER GUY: We have a new Marine Police director, Steve Thompson, who, I think, came in July of last year. Steve is doing an outstanding job for us, and we appreciate your service as our Marine Police director.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Commissioner, Board Members.

Like the Commissioner said, I'm the new guy in conservation, and I'm having a wonderful time. It's been an eye-opening experience. And I have the honor and privilege of working with some fantastic individuals -- not only Marine Police, but all the Conservation divisions as well. I've made a lot of good friends.

First of all, since coming to the Marine Police Division -- I retired as deputy chief of police in Montgomery -- here in Montgomery. So I'm home here in Montgomery. I just want to let you know we've had about four retirements, and we
currently have about four or five recruits in our Marine Police academy at this time to try and fill those vacancies.

We have about 59 sworn officers throughout the state of Alabama, and we focus on recreational and boater safety enforcement. And through enforcement and education of our youth, which is extremely important, I'm happy to say in the 2011 boating season our fatalities were significantly down and serious accidents. So I'm extremely pleased with that and continue to move forward in that direction of making sure everybody is safe on the water, having a good time, and they can all go home at the end of the day.

Like I said, it's an honor and privilege to serve as your new director of the Marine Police. And thank you. I'll just keep it short.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you. Not a problem.
Parks. Mark -- Tim Wishum, who is, also, our acting -- one of our acting directors of Parks with the retirement of Mark Easterwood who retired in January.

MR. WISHUM: Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to address the board.

In Parks we've had a pretty good year. We gave y'all our annual report which had a lot of our accomplishments and some problems that we've had. We didn't have all our financial figures in, but it's sort of a good news/bad news, you know, kind of year.

At Gulf State Park we've had a very good year at the pier and the campground. Our cabins have done really well.

At Guntersville State Park, you know, we were devastated by the tornado on April 27th, and we lost part of our hotel roof and a couple of cabins, and our campground was severely damaged.
But we have -- we have -- we have done the final contract on the campground, and there should be a few more minor ones.

But our goal is to have all our facilities at Guntersville back open by Memorial Day. And it's going to be a struggle, but I think it's going to be pretty possible. And what we like to tell people is, well, you know, there's a lot of trees that are gone, but there's a good view of Lake Guntersville.

So other than that, you know, our visitation was down some because of the economy, but we continue to try to, you know, provide good quality recreational facilities and try to keep our costs as low as possible, you know, for the public. If there's any questions.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir.

Ms. Patti Powell with Lands.

MS. POWELL: Thank you, Commissioner and
Board. I'll keep my report very brief also. I know you've got a report from us in the packet. Our activities over the last year were primarily our usual and routine duties. I would like to highlight two activities.

One is our ongoing work administering the Forever Wild land acquisition program. Over the last year we added 5,000 acres spanning five counties to that program providing the public with additional opportunities for recreational activities, hunting, and other habitat management programs. We continue to be very proud to be associated with that program and able to help with the work of that board in administering that program.

Secondly, I would also note, because it's been so time-consuming over the last year, we continue our activities supporting the Commissioner in his duties as lead trustee for the State of
Alabama for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment process related to the BP oil spill. That's the process under the Oil Pollution Act by which we are responsible on behalf of the public and the state for recovering the public's loss of use and damage -- restoring damage to the state's natural resources as a result of the oil spill. That has been a time-consuming function, and we are continuing to work with that until we get those resources and those damages restored.

And any questions anyone has, let me know. But other than that, I'll just defer to the information we have in your packet. Thank you. Thank you,

COMMISSIONER GUY: If I just -- Dan, may I make a little commentary.

You know, having now been in this position for a year, I can unequivocally say that the public needs to be aware
that we have great leadership through these division directors. They do a fine job of protecting the resources and running the business of the Conservation Department. And as who we serve, I can assure you, you're in good hands with the people that just spoke and the people that work for them. I'm very proud of what they do. They work hard. They work long hours. They work -- you know, whatever needs to be done, when I call on them, they do it. And we try our best to answer your needs as best we can.

And as far as the board is concerned, I know you call on them from time to time, and hopefully y'all get what you need. I think you do. Anytime y'all need, you know, information about a particular area that relates to, you know, what they do, please feel free to call them. I know they will try to answer your questions and get the
information to you as quickly as possible.

But, in particular, Dan, there was a mention, of course, by Fred about the devastating tornadoes back in April. And we all know what a — you know, how greatly that affected the state and many of our citizens in this state which we continue to pray for and work for every day. But all of our divisions, as Fred Harders mentioned, were heavily involved in that effort to assist the people in the state of Alabama.

And I think that those that were affected know that we were there trying to help out, trying to do that. And we spent a lot of time doing that. But it was rewarding work, and hopefully we're going to continue to get the state back on track. As a result of that, the Governor is working real hard to do that, and we'll continue to do what we can. So we appreciate everybody's
support in that regard.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Absolutely great. Thank you, Commissioner Guy, and thank you all the DCNR departments.

The next order of business is the public hearing. When your name is called, please go to the microphone and give your name and subject you wish to speak on. I'll remind you again that only you may speak at the time you are called and that any interference will not be tolerated.

I'll take this time again at the first of each year. The Conservation Advisory Board has posted standing rules. I'll read these real quickly.

After registering, the person wishing to speak should go to the designated microphone when called. After being recognized by the Chair, the person should give his/her name, city, and county. The time to speak is limited strictly to three minutes.
Where several persons wish to speak on the same subject, the group should choose one speaker to represent them. The Chair may choose or not choose to call on each person in that group or from that group to speak for additional information. Questions of debate from Advisory Board members shall be limited to ten minutes. No person shall — may speak twice until all registered speakers have spoken.

Okay. First we'll have Ms. Chiquita Baker.

Please speak into the microphone when called.

MS. BAKER: I am Chiquita Baker from Franklin County. And you all talked about the tornado on April 27th, and the tornado ripped through the heart of my little community. And so it was within hours we had law enforcement people there.

And we — of course, we had sightseers and looters and all kinds of
problems. My son lost his house, and he had things taken from his property. But within a few hours the law enforcement people were there. The biologists were there. And we had a Marine Police command post set up in our community. And they stopped people from coming into our neighborhood who shouldn't have been there. And they did a yeoman's job. And I just wanted the board to be aware of how thankful the community is to have had the people in the Conservation Department helping us. It was wonderful.

And as an avid hunter, I have one more thing I want to say. This is the WMA schedule. And this is -- in the past you've always had a spreadsheet that has the dates of the hunts across the top and you have the WMAs across the side. And you can look at a date and pick out what WMAs have hunts on that certain day. Well, this year it was
taken out of the brochure.

So if I may ask -- and we like to hunt -- we like to look at the day and see what WMA we want to go to on that day. So if it's at all possible, we would like to have that information put back in the brochure. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Baker.

The next speaker will be Rusty Morrow.

MR. MORROW: Thank you. I appreciate the time today, Mr. Moultrie, Commissioner, Distinguished Board. My name is Rusty Morrow. I'm executive director of the Alabama Conservation Enforcement Officers Association. I'm a retired conservation officer from Lowndes County, spent 25 years over there.

I would like the board to consider a little extra time today. I had another guy -- a supervisor out of District 1 who could not be here today. But I'm here to recognize three individuals.
The first one set on this board. He passed away last year, late in the year. His name was Mr. Jimmy Hinton, Sr. I met with his family at the Buckmasters American Deer Foundation Life Hunt on January the 11th and told -- and over the past six years since our Conservation Enforcement Officers Association has been involved with the Buckmasters American Deer Foundation Life Hunt at Sedgefield Plantation, I've gotten to know Mr. Jimmy Hinton. And I expressed to his family that I would like to recognize Mr. Hinton at this Advisory Board meeting.

He served on this panel for 19 years. Of the 19 years, he was the chairman of the board for like 13 or 14 years. He served under five governors. He was a true statesman. He believed in the wildlife resource of Alabama. He was a great gentleman. He -- he worked
hard on the same -- in the same seats
that you work -- you're working on
today. A lot of his laws -- a lot of
his regulations, seasons, bag limits are
still in effect from the time that he
served on this board.

He opens his plantation up to the
Life Hunt for the past 19 years for
handicapped hunters, terminally ill kids
and whatnot to come in and hunt on his
plantation. They make it all open to
them. And it's an unbelievable event.
It's a humbling event. And we
appreciate what the Hinton family has
done. And the loss of Mr. Hinton is
truly something that will be thought
about for a long time. And just in my
short time of knowing him, he -- he was
a true gentleman and believed in the
wildlife resource of this state. We'll
miss him.

The second individual I want to
recognize is our officer of the year,
Lieutenant Mike Nichols. His supervisor couldn't be here today, Captain Johnny Johnson out of District 1. But I had the fortune of working with Mike Nichols over a period of years. He is a -- and since we've talked about the hurricane -- tornado relief, Mike was stationed in Franklin County. Being a lieutenant, he was a first responder to the tornado relief where there was 26, I believe, deaths in that county, in north Franklin County and Phil Campbell alone.

Mike is certainly not limited to that particular event. He is a true leader, and he's certainly qualified for our officer of the year. But because of his expertise, search and rescue training that the department has given him, his training as a medic in the military, he was able to go into that community, set up -- set up control stations and distribute whatever those
people up there needed. And it was devastating.

And that wasn't the only reason he was our conservation officer of the year, but he -- he did take a major part. He stayed up there for over a month helping those people in a command post and things like this. So we recognize today Lieutenant Mike Nichols from District 1.

The other individual I would like to recognize is another conservation officer, a hero. And we have many heroes, and sometimes we're overlooked -- our heroes in our department are overlooked. But Joe Lindsey was a true hero. He's been recognized in several different committees and legislative.

But Joe, on two different occasions, has been considered a mystery man. He goes in sometimes and -- because -- in Madison County he pulled a young
juvenile from a burning airplane where his parents were killed, and he was a first responder there. And after he did first aid, got the kid away from the plane, he kind of disappeared. And so -- and on another incident in 2008 he pulled a young handicapped girl from a burning van. And once the paramedics got there, he kind of disappeared again.

But Joe Lindsey from District 1 is also a hero. And we recognized him last year, and he's been recognized a lot for his heroism. We have heroes in our ranks, and oftentimes they go unnoticed.

But we had a lot of heroes during Katrina. We had heroes during the tornado devastation. And we -- we do the best -- the best job that anybody can do, and we're oftentimes overlooked.

So thank you for your time. We
appreciate you. Glad to see Mr. Hatley back. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Morrow.

Our next speaker will be Mr. Avery Bates.

We're sorry to be so rushed today, but we have a long list today, guys and ladies.

MR. BATES: I would say I'm just too big, but I'm four foot too short.

My name is Avery Bates. I'm vice-president of Organized Seafood Association. We've had many trials and tribulations in our business over the years.

First of all, I want to thank the board last year for not taking some of our liberties away from us. You know, our forefathers fought for our liberties under our constitution and our state constitution. One liberty that tried to be taken away that y'all preserved and didn't allow it was gamefish status in
three species of fish. One of them was
Spanish mackerel, sheepshead, and
pompano. And this property that we take
from the waters belongs to everybody in
this state. In fact -- what did we see,
Chauncey -- 700-and-something firemen
that worked in many rescues we fed.
Many different people -- we fed
Buckmasters, 400-and-something people.
We fed the tornado victims for two
weeks. We fed another 300 in this
tornado disaster my son was in.

We feed people with the products
from the sea. We're farmers of the
sea. Thank God for our constitution. I
know everybody on this board -- I don't
think (inaudible) -- but we have our
liberties to defend. Many of our people
on this board defended them last year.
And we want to keep y'all defending our
liberties to take our fish, all
species. It's according to Law
9-2-80.
All saltwater fish belong to all the people of the state, not just one user group. We don't want somebody to try to exercise, on Article 1, Section 23, the eminent domain on one particular species. It belongs to everybody. Let us keep fishing. Let us keep oystering. Let us keep producing what everybody enjoys, good healthy seafood.

Keep in mind, now, we have -- as according to the Sea Grant group, we have 9,750 people who work in our commercial seafood industry, 4,719 recreational who work in our seafood industry. This is according to Governor Bentley, who is a fine Christian governor.

And I want to lay one thing to our credit of the Conservation Department. We have a man right here, that's a fine Christian man, who's head over our seafood director, Chris Blankenship, that has stood up for us in the past and
just speaks the truth as far as qualities of stock. And there's also the new commissioner. He believes in a good healthy resource and a good healthy department defending that resource and defending our products for everybody. Thank you, Commissioner Guy, for all you do for us. I know it's a big responsibility being a trustee.

And we want our oyster reefs -- like Mississippi wants theirs and Louisiana wants theirs, we want them built back. 30,000 sacks of oysters come out of Heron Bay in just a very few weeks.

MS. JONES: Mr. Bates --

MR. BATES: Some of the best oysters in the country.

MS. JONES: Mr. Bates, that's time.

MR. BATES: Thank you.

Do you have any questions? I'll be willing to answer them. We've got many other reports here. Some of the board asked me some reports on stats. I have
them by the bunches.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Bates, we certainly appreciate your time today. Thank you.

MR. BATES: Thank you, Mr. Moultrie.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker is Sidney Schwartz.

While we're waiting on the speaker, I'd like to remind the board, all the changes to the DCNR regs, regulations, limits, et cetera, are in your packets. That will be reviewed and voted on a motion for the next meeting. Please review those.

Mr. Schwartz.


I've been shrimping since I was a little kid. Learned from my grandfather, my father. I did it. My son does it. My grandson does it. We have four generations shrimping right now on my boat.
In the past 20 years probably three times it's happened. The season was opened quick. People was left out. I think we need 72 hours notice before shrimp season is opened.

I expressed this to Mr. Chris Blankenship. And I think he's a good man for the job. That was the right decision. I endorse it. And I understand that last year's opening, it had to be done because of the floods, another opening for the oil spill. You know, natural disasters, that's understandable. But in other cases, we need 72 hours notice so some of the fishermen isn't left out.

I was left out last year. I missed quite a bit of money because I couldn't go to the season. I wasn't ready for it. So if y'all would take that into consideration, I'd appreciate it.

Any questions?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I have one question,
Mr. Schwartz.

MR. SCHWARTZ: Yes.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I don't know if you've noticed, but the hunter orange that goes into play in game and fish -- and I see your hat. I have a different hat. If you need to wear that, then we'll offer you that. But I guess we need to give kudos to your university. But thank you so much, but notice the hunter orange. It goes well with blue.

MR. SCHWARTZ: Oh, okay. I'll take that into consideration.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Schwartz.

MR. SCHWARTZ: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker is Jeb Brantley. Is Mr. Brantley present?

Mr. Brantley.

MR. BRANTLEY: My name is Jeb Brantley. I'm from Montgomery County. I live in the city of Montgomery. The topic I'm bringing up today is an issue we've actually been having at the Gulf State
Pier in Gulf Shores. We have an issue right now with the disposal of the carcasses of the fish caught and cleaning on site.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the mic, please, Mr. Brantley.

MR. BRANTLEY: We're having an issue with the disposal of the carcasses of the fish being caught and cleaned on site. And the issue I see with it is we're not allowed to dispose of the fish on site and we're also not allowed to dispose of them within the receptacles provided to us at the facility. We've actually been told by the park director down there that we are to dispose of the remains of the fish in the trash cans provided to us.

Well, the way I see it is, is what you're going to end up with is a pier that is there for everybody's enjoyment that smells like somebody has dumped a dead body on it. I've left fish in my
garbage can down there before, and it's not a nice smell after a few hours. But I can only imagine what it's going to smell like after a few days, because there's limited resources on the people that actually work down there and who provide services to empty the garbage cans. They sometimes can only get to them once every other day.

Well, I can see if you get a good strong north wind or a good strong south wind and everybody who's in the parking lot wanting to walk out on the pier and they smell the stench coming from the garbage cans. They're not going to want to walk out on the pier. They're not going to want to enjoy the facilities.

And the other thing I see is, is that it provides -- it actually hinders people coming down and fishing because they have to clean the fish at where they're staying. And a lot of people don't have places to clean. If they
stay at hotels and motels, they're not provided with freezers or cleaning stations at those particular locations to process their own fish and to store it. And so what you end up with is an issue there because you're going to have garbage cans and dumpsters all over the city that smell like death.

That's all I have to cover on the topic, and that's my view of it.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let me interrupt just a minute. We've got Tim Wishum. We've been working on that.

Tim, would you like to comment on that?

MR. WISHUM: Well, it's an ongoing-type problem.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Come up to the microphone if you can.

MR. WISHUM: We've been working, you know, with our engineering section, for one thing, to move our fish-cleaning stations to the parking lot for the pier
customers and for anyone else in Gulf Shores that, you know, wishes to clean fish. And we're trying to, you know, do that so that we can dispose of the fish and then, if possible, find someone to recycle, you know.

MR. BRANTLEY: Well, with the recycling issue is that if you've ever been to any of the marinas, Zeke's or Sportman's, down there and you've been there on a good warm summer day, what you're going to end up with is a cesspool basically. The marina -- when you go down to Zeke's in July, you can't go within 30 feet of the dumpster down there. It absolutely reeks. And it's right next to a restaurant. I mean, at the pier that's -- that's --

MR. WISHUM: Well, an odor problem, you know, we've been addressing in our campground, which is a 500-site campground. And if you pull in there, there's a fish-cleaning station and there's
anywhere from eight to 12 dumpsters. It's something if you stay on top of it and you keep them dumped and you keep them sprayed.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Brantley.

Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: I was just going to say, I think the thing that we wanted you to know was we're working on that.

MR. WISHUM: We're working on that.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you, Tim.

And we're trying to address that. You know, when the pier was built, there was a plan in place. As many plans sometimes don't work, it didn't work. Had difficulty with people misusing or abusing what we had. So now we're having to try to figure out something else to do. We're keenly aware of that. And I know that you had a comment.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Is this Dr. Shipp or Mr. Hatley?
COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Hatley.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hatley.

MR. HATLEY: I had talked with Jim Egbert. I think Jim is here today. And I had also talked with staff in reference to this. This was going to be part of my report today.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good.

MR. HATLEY: And I had assured Jim and I'm assuring you that our staff is going to rectify this problem at some point. And as Commissioner said, we are working on it.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Brantley, thank you very much.

MR. BRANTLEY: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be Glen Bryant.

MR. BRYANT: My name is Glen Bryant. I'm here representing Pete Barber with the Alabama Seafood Association. As you heard, he's very, very sick, very critical. If there is any
gillnet-related regulations, I would ask that they be tabled till my people can regroup and maybe Pete gets better. That's all I've got to say.

CHAIRMAN MOULTERIE: Thank you very much, Mr. Bryant.

The next speaker will be Zack Carter.

MR. CARTER: Hello, Mr. Chairman. I think I'm wearing the correct colors on my hat.

CHAIRMAN MOULTERIE: You are absolutely appropriate.

MR. CARTER: Good morning. My name is Zack Carter, and I'm an interim board member of the newly formed Alabama Fisheries Cooperative in Coden, Alabama. And I would like to -- there's a couple of things that I learned at a public meeting two days ago in Bayou La Batre that I'm concerned about.

I would like to ask the Commissioner and Doctor, too, if they could reconsider putting the projects of
restoring the oyster reefs back into
round one of the NRDA funding. And, I
mean, we've had conversations with Patti
and others, and we've been reassured
that probably next round that the
restoration projects will be included.
But the problem is that -- you know, the
point was raised that Louisiana and
Mississippi wants theirs. Well, they
got theirs. And that's my
understanding, that they are spending
millions to restore their oyster reefs.
And so we will be a year behind. And
Alabama oyster catchers, whenever they
have to go to Louisiana or Mississippi,
they catch hell.

So I'm hoping that maybe we could
meet and try to understand exactly what
is the process, why, you know, these
projects were not included in the first
round. And so I'll stop there, and then
maybe we can get some explanation.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Carter.
Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: The NRDA process is very complicated. It's very technical. And I assure you that we look at all the projects. And I've talked to a number of people about this, and we've had public hearings down in Mobile and Gulf Shores about our projects. We're very cognizant of the interest in the oyster reefs. And that's about all I can say at this time. Thank you for your comments though.

MR. CARTER: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Carter.

The next speaker will be Jim Egbert.

MR. EGBERT: Good morning. Thanks for this opportunity. My name is Jim Egbert from Gulf Shores. I am assistant manager of reservations, Gulf Shores Plantation/Mandoki Hospitality. My issue is, again, with the same regulations that were spoken about earlier.
These regulations which were originally partly intended to apply to commercial operation shrimpers/net fishermen have now been combined to include the individual. So we now face the same burden as an individual who has a shrimp boat if we're fishing on the beach for whiting. We can't dispose of that half-cup of shrimp into the Gulf without taking it three miles out. If we're fishing in the bay for trout, flounder, the same thing applies. We have to take it 500 feet away from the beach to put it into the bay or harbor. The bay or harbor comes from the Clean Water Act, the verbiage.

I have given a formal petition to rework paragraphs 7 and 8 of 220-4 -- I'm sorry -- -3.04 asking that the language be changed back to where it was originally intended. You have provisions in inland waters bringing up carcasses 500 feet from the beach.
Our cleaning stations on the pier are over 500 feet away. You have provisions allowing for shark fishermen where he can dump his chum within 300 feet of the water, but for some reason now if you're fishing from the beach for whiting you have to take your bycatch three miles out.

We ask you to have every consideration of the proposal in front of you, the petition, and we look forward to your answer on that.

This is basically what we're required to do. If you have anything left over, you got to carry it around because you can't dispose of it at my condo. You can't dispose of it at the pier. Even if the proposal is adopted to move them down and provide containers, the law states you cannot dispose of fish carcasses into refuse containers. So we ask you for your consideration on making those changes.
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you.

Mr. Blankenship, do you have any comment at this time on that?

MR. BLANKENSHIP: The only comment I have is that, you know, Tim Wishum and I are working together to come up with a win-win solution for this for the long-term. In the short-term we have addressed that on the pier. Tim has addressed that with their people. And, I mean, it is -- as we have more people that return to the coast to fish, it's an issue that has to be dealt with not only at the pier, but at the boat ramps, at the condominiums and other places. And we're trying to find solutions to that whereby we can -- these carcasses can be used for fertilizer and working with the Alabama and Auburn -- with the Auburn Sea Grant Extension to come up with some solutions. And so it is in the forefront of things that we're
working on.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you,
Mr. Blankenship. Thank you, Mr. Egbert.

MR. EGBERT: We do appreciate the efforts of
both the department and division. It
creates a catch-22 for the Code stating
one thing. It's like the Parks saying
it's okay to drive 70 miles through the
state parks when the Code says it's only
35. And that's the issue that we have
right now. So we ask for consideration
in rewriting.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Egbert.

MR. EGBERT: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Robert
Miller, Jr.

MR. MILLER: My name is Bob Miller. I live in
Gulf Shores, Alabama, Baldwin County,
and guess what I want to talk about.
The pier. I've kind of got -- some of
this has already been covered, I know,
and -- but just since I drove all the
way up here, I'm going to say it
anyway.

This is also about 220-3.7 and 8. I would like to say that maybe in a temporary situation -- since the pier opened in '09, we were not only invited to and we were applauded for throwing our remains of fish carcasses and such into the Gulf of Mexico. And one of the first questions I asked was at the pier house, what about washing up on the beach. And this was a year after the pier started up when we started talking about this. And there had been no complaints at the pier about carcasses washing up on the beach. And I had personally seen them, that what the birds don't get, the crab and the fish and the toothy critters get.

So it really creates a problem for folks out of town. I can take them home and put them in my neighbor's garbage can, so I don't have to worry about it. But if I'm down there -- if I come down
from Arkansas -- and you'll find in your packet there's a letter from a guy in Arkansas. He drove around with it in his car hunting a place to get rid of it. And he feels like a criminal by catching -- paying to catch fish on our pier, on a beautiful facility, and then he has to act like a criminal to get rid of it. Because he can't get rid of them at his condo or his rental property.

You can't put them in the trash can. I know we've got an exception to that, but that's going to be unbelievably bad. And we've been told by the pier in the past to throw them overboard and then we were told put them in the garbage can. Then we were told no. Then they moved the garbage cans and took them away.

And it depends on who you talk to what story you get about what's legal.

Can you clean your fish on the pier and take home only the filet, or can you clean your fish on the pier, take
everything home? It depends on who stops you in the parking lot wearing a uniform as to what the -- people have been given warning tickets for littering -- not -- well, I think it was for littering, actually. It's in your packet that you got for the formal request from Jim -- the letter is.

But it's just a sticky situation. I would love to see in the interim an exception to the three-mile rule, because they're not washing up on the deck -- on the beach. And it's nowhere near the volume of one shrimp boat. Because we don't all catch. A lot of us go out there just to enjoy that beautiful facility we have on Gulf Shores. And it's really a deterrent to the people that want to come down to the beach and fish just for enjoyment. It's not like we're harvesting tons of fish. I know I'm not hurting the population, even though I spend days -- several days
a week out there and spend my money.

MS. JONES: Mr. Miller, time.

MR. MILLER: Okay. And I thank you very much
for considering this issue.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Miller.

MR. MILLER: Any other --

MR. HATLEY: Mr. Miller, the guy from
Arkansas --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hatley, if you'll
address the Chair, please, sir.

MR. HATLEY: Oh, I'm sorry.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Do you have a question for
Mr. Miller?

MR. HATLEY: I have a point, I guess.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Please make it.

MR. HATLEY: The guy from Arkansas,

Mr. Miller, I think he brought that out
to Cotton Creek and put it in a dumpster
next to my house.

MR. MILLER: He said it was the only one he
could find that wasn't locked. Please
help us out.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you.
Mr. Hatley, that was probably a strange smell of smelling fish at your house because I know your fishing ability.

The next speaker is Adam Morck.

MR. MORCK: Thank you very much. And I'm Adam Morck. I'm from Foley, Alabama, Baldwin County. I'm strategic accounts director for ABM. We handle environmental services across the nation. My concern, obviously, is one of the items that has been a hot topic today. And I, also, would like to address the same miscellaneous and public access regulation in Chapter 220-3, paragraphs 7 and 8, in regards to our pier.

Now, I know a lot of this has already been covered. My concern possibly is maybe looking for a way to find a solution to some of these issues. And I know that that is obviously an item of great interest.

Our main concern, obviously, is
tourism. We want to find tourists. And let's face it. The pier is one of the greatest attractions we have in the Gulf. And in dealing with such, they are getting to the point where the condos are not allowing them to dispose of these fish. The agencies that rent these things out and people are coming down that are spending their money, it gets to that point where they start going elsewhere.

I have two friends already that were given warnings by the people on the pier, and the next thing you know, hey, we're going to Pensacola this time, we're going to Panama City. And with them living in Atlanta and Arkansas and Kansas and different places, it's not any different for them to just travel an extra hour. And we lose that revenue. That's county revenue we lose. That's state revenue. And that goes toward helping our things on a local level.
One of the issues that we have with putting it on the ground is animals, pests, insects, and the smell. Obviously, these things will be attracted to such a thing. If we keep the organic material going back into the Gulf by someway, perhaps a grinder with maybe a two-part system, maybe a diamond-cut grinder that could emulsify it down to a place where it can decompose in the water, that could be an option as well.

Now, the question is who's going to fund that wonderful invention. But there's always other alternatives. And that's what we're looking for. Obviously, we want to work through this and come to some type of agreement.

And, as he said, if we could get the verbiage where it distinguishes the difference between commercial fisherman and recreational fisherman to the point where these regulations are in
accordance with reality, then we can come to an agreement and everyone could be happy, especially our tourists that are coming down and supporting our area during the summer months primarily. And that is all I have this morning.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Morck, clarify for the board, what is your company's policy on such issues on that? Do y'all have policy within your company on that?

MR. MORCK: As far as waste management?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes. As far as like the fish carcasses.

MR. MORCK: We simply remove the items from -- from the areas. It's not a matter of having a policy. It's --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: So y'all don't have any policy what goes in those dumpsters?

MR. MORCK: No. We remove it from the dumpsters.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. So you take it out. They're not your dumpsters?

MR. MORCK: Right.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: So you're just the removal company. So the board -- because I'm not clear. I want the board to be clear on what you're lobbying for.

MR. MORCK: Right. And we deal with it on a daily basis where we see the worst of the worst. And I have seen some extremely nasty environments in my work. And it's something that we certainly don't want somebody to open up a dumpster or a can and a raccoon or something jump out and attack them. And we've actually seen animals, you know, run out and attack, you know, stray cats and hyenas and all kinds of different things across the nation. So we --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Hyenas. Mr. Morck, this board is pretty aware of the game. I mean, you're going to say mountain lions next.

Mr. Morck, I've got one more question. After you remove this material, what happens to that material
then? Where does it go?

MR. MORCK: It's generally taken to a compost or it's broken down, you know, wherever the waste management company that we hire carries it to in their facility. We subcontract a lot of that out.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Very good. Does the board have any other questions?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much, Mr. Morck.

Okay. The next speaker will be Charles Winkler.

DR. WINKLER: Thank you. I'm Fred Winkler, Dr. Fred Winkler. I'm a retired biology instructor for the two-year college in Andalusia. What I'd like to talk to you about this morning is the harvesting of freshwater turtles in Covington County for commercial use.

This particular episode that I came upon was this past September. A friend and I, we like to go out on the Conecuh
River when the water is low and collect fossils. And we were down on the Conecuh there this late September afternoon, and a fellow pulled up in a van. He had three kayaks on the top of the van, and there were three people in the van. And he got out, and I soon -- I got to talking to him a little bit, and I asked him what he was doing. He said he was down here to -- I asked him, are you down here kayaking? He said, no, I'm down here to collect turtles. I said, collect turtles, shame on you. What are you doing that for?

He said, a fellow's got to make a living and this is what I do. I come up here in Alabama. It's easy to get a permit to collect turtles. They've outlawed it in Florida. So it's easy to come up here and that's the way I make my living. He said, where I live in Florida, in my backyard I have over 500 turtles that I've collected, and I sell
them to Japan and China and different places where the market is good, and it's been a very good, profitable business for me over the years.

And so, anyway, this kind of bothered me. So the next day I called up the Conservation Department and asked to speak to someone in the law enforcement area. And I talked to a captain there, and I told him that I had gotten the tag number of the car and the description of the vehicle and the -- description of the van and so on, would he try to trace it down and see if it's -- where he's from. And he did and he traced the tag down. It was from central Florida. And, sure enough, he checked the permit too. He had a permit to collect turtles in Alabama. In fact, he had two permits, one for himself and one for his son. And about the other party, I don't know whether they were from -- had a permit or not.
But Covington County has an abundance of water -- there's about five different streams and rivers that go through there. And I don't believe that anybody can permit and check an individual to what type of turtles they're collecting. I don't think the conservation officers have been trained to identify the different turtles and know which ones that they can collect and which ones they can't collect. And I would like to recommend that they do some type in-service education for the conservation officers and, also, to look at Florida's laws on stopping the collecting and commercial --

MS. JONES: Dr. Winkler, time.

DR. WINKLER: -- use in Covington County and Alabama. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

Mr. Winkler and the next two other speakers, I'm going to get Stan Cook to comment after -- y'all are all three on
the same subject, so --

COMMISSIONER GUY: Or Fred.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Or Fred, whoever.

All right. The next speaker will be Craig Guyer.

MR. GUYER: I'm Craig Guyer from Lee County, Auburn. I'm a professor in biological sciences at Auburn University, and I'm here to talk on the very same issue about turtle regulation.

For 25 years my grad students and I have done population studies of the turtles in our state. This is a very rich and diverse state from a turtle perspective. And I'm here to encourage you to see if we can't get ahead of an issue that does seem to be emerging in this state relative to regulating our turtle populations.

All of the research that I know of and that has emerged from my lab tells us that the single worst thing you can do for a turtle population is to allow
the big oldest reproductive individuals
to disappear, and that is the group of
turtles that is being valued in foreign
market, largely the Asian foreign
market. And there's a very small number
of folks who are harvesting those
turtles for this purpose.

So if we're to retain those in our
state's fauna, it is my professional
opinion that we do need to get out ahead
of this issue. All of our local states
have contacted me about the wisdom of a
total ban on turtle for commercial
purposes, and it's my professional
opinion that that's what we need to do
if we're going to maintain our turtle
populations. And I would like to see us
open the discussion of seeing whether we
are going to join with what I believe to
be the direction that our neighboring
states are going, which is to ban this
until we can understand how to maintain
that resource.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Guyer, I believe we'll have several questions.

Commissioner McMillan.

MR. McMILLAN: Yes. Two things. How do they ship them and what do they do with them?

MR. GUYER: I've never seen the shippers. All I've seen is pictures of them. But it's generally large, big wooden crates, and they toss them in there by the hundreds.

MR. McMILLAN: For what use?

MR. GUYER: Some of it is medicinal purposes. The spleen is thought to be an aphrodisiac in some cultures. And it's being used for food meat, but largely for very small bits of the turtle and then the rest of it is discarded.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner McMillan, in y'all's department is there a commercial turtle operation, or do y'all handle that?

MR. McMILLAN: No. We leave it to the
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I figured you would.

Any other questions?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you, sir.

The next speaker is Jim Godwin.

MR. GODWIN: Yes. I'm Jim Godwin. I'm with Auburn University. I'm a zoologist there. One of my areas of expertise is the southeastern turtles. I've been in Alabama -- for about the past 15 years I've been in Alabama studying the turtles, and this issue of regulating the commercial harvest is one that's growing. It's going to be a problem if it's not addressed. It's going to be a problem in Alabama as is being pointed out. Adjacent states have tightened up their regulations, and if we don't do something, we're going to see a real decline in the turtle numbers that we have here in Alabama.
There are two important -- globally two important areas in the world for turtles. One is southeast Asia. The other is the southeastern United States. Alabama is in the middle of this incredible turtle diversity. We have more turtles in Alabama than any other place in North America and in many places in South America.

The turtles are harvested. They're sent to Asia for food. The Asians have -- they eat many species. They've, in fact, driven many of their native species to the brink of extinction. The other area where the turtles are used is in Europe where it goes -- they go into the pet trade.

Thousands of these turtles leave the United States every year. And so as it's been pointed out, Georgia, Florida have tightened up their regulations. And so the commercial harvesters will be looking to places like Alabama where
there's more freedom to come in and take what they want.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Godwin, I've got a quick question. I know the board may.

I've seen an awful lot of publicity in the Everglades that the boas have wiped out the turtles down there. Do you go along with that?

MR. GODWIN: I don't know if they've wiped out the turtles. They're affecting most of the other fauna in the Everglades, yes, the mammals, the birds, taken some alligators.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: A very good reason this board watches the exotic pets like we do.

Dr. Strickland.

DR. STRICKLAND: Mr. Chairman, can I address the speaker?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, absolutely.

DR. STRICKLAND: Jim, could you give us a little bit of insight with regards to the life cycle of the turtle?
MR. GODWIN: The life cycle, yes. Thank you for that question, yes.

Yeah. The reason that the turtles cannot sustain this commercial harvest is that they're long-lived. You know, so you've got turtles that can live 40 or 50 years. Well, they lay a lot of eggs. All right. But there's a high mortality of eggs. In fact, it's not uncommon that in nesting beaches you can find, you know, turtles nesting there over -- from the spring to the summer. And up to 90 percent of those eggs are lost to predators. Even if the turtle hatches, then for the first few years that little turtle is still susceptible to predation. So it takes these turtles four or five years before they reach the point where they're free from this predation pressure.

Well, the females -- so then the females are the really critical age class within the turtles. And so it may
take them eight or ten or 12 years to reach maturity before they then can begin reproducing. Well, so then they've got this long time span where they're laying eggs with, you know, sort of the hope that they can just hatch off a few individuals to come back into the population to replace themselves and to add to their population. So we pull out these females and we're removing the most critical age class from the population. And so, you know, the females tend to be larger. They've got more meat. They're more desirable from a commercial standpoint.

DR. STRICKLAND: So I guess this underscores how delicate the life cycle in removing the females and the older adults, which sounds like the ones that the commercial turtle harvesters are looking for, can have a pretty detrimental impact fairly quickly and it would take years to recover.
MR. GODWIN: Yes, it can. Yes. Along with all the other pressures that are out there for them.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Dobbs, I believe you have a question.

MR. DOBBS: Chairman Moultrie, thank you very much.

What species of turtles are they targeting? Multiple species? And what species of turtles that we have here in Alabama -- don't we have some that are protected?

MR. GODWIN: We do have ones that are protected. The ones that tend to be targeted for food are the soft shells, the snapping turtles. We've got two species of snapping turtles in the state. We've got the common snapping turtle, which is -- I don't believe it has any real protection. Then there's the alligator snapping turtle which is state protected. We have map turtles which are state protected. We've got a
few other ones that have -- we have a
couple that have federal protection and
a few others with state protection.

MR. DOBBS: Again, which ones do you think
that they're targeting, that these
fellows are harvesting and shipping?

MR. GODWIN: I think that they would be
targeting soft-shell turtles, snapping
turtles, probably cooters, which are
these big basking turtles you see in the
rivers and lakes, red-eared turtles.
Those would be the most common ones.
And then I know with what Dr. Winkler
said, I believe what he encountered
were -- was a harvester that was taking
musk turtles, which are actually very
small turtles, but they're desirable for
the pet trade.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Mr. Moody, did you have
comments?

MR. GODWIN: Thank you very much.

MR. MOODY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is
on our radar screen. It's something
that we feel very strongly that we are
going to have to address in some form or
fashion. We had a pretty good
discussion within the law enforcement
and wildlife sections within the last
month to discuss this issue and to look
at it. Apparently, the food and pet
trade in Asia and Europe are growing,
and, you know, it's something that most
of us aren't aware of. We don't see it
until somebody brings it to our
attention.

We are very fortunate that Dr. Guyer
and Mr. Godwin are very knowledgeable
herpetologists and we have their
expertise to draw on. There's not that
many people that are studying turtles.
But Mark Sasser on our staff has done a
good job of pulling together information
from other states and looking at what
they are doing and trying to give us
some thoughts and recommendations on how
we need to react and be prepared to come
before you with some kind of recommendation.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you. Please let us know what we can do with that. I know in the past couple of years we've learned that the northern states were coming down and getting our big catfish, and now people are getting our turtles. So we've got to watch all of it. And y'all do an excellent job at that.

Any other comments from the board?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker is Rush Meriwether.

Oh, Dr. Strickland.

DR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, you know, I really see this as a potential very serious issue, as Dr. Guyer and Dr. Godwin brought forth to the board. And, you know, we really -- I think this is something that we really need to act on pretty quickly, you know.

And I see that you have a task force
in place, but I would certainly like for you all, Gary, to bring some information back to the board on where we are and what we're going to do to try to bring a halt to the problem.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yeah. And especially with us discussing it here, we can pass that to you at the next meeting.

Very good. The next speaker is Mr. Rush Meriwether.

MR. MERIWETHER: Good morning. My name is Rush Meriwether. I live in Mathews, Alabama. I'm here to speak about dove hunting, particularly the setting of the seasons.

My concern is that the season is opening too early for the following reasons: It's too hot. There's plenty of snakes out. There's plenty of mosquitoes out, flies, et cetera. Also, it's very difficult to properly have a food source for the birds because browntop is the (inaudible) crop. You
plant it first of July. You don't get any rain. So, therefore, it's not ready to go by the time season opens in early September.

And probably the most important issue for me, as I've hunted dove all my life, is the nesting cycle for doves. I know that probably there's a lot of people in here that have hunted birds and they've been hunting early in the season and they'll get a bird to fly off the nest and knowing that that bird is going to go out and potentially be harvested and, therefore, not just killing that bird, but killing the ones that are in the nest and would be available to harvest at another point in time.

I don't know how many people here remember that dove season used to open on October the 1st and run through the middle part of December. Well, it was decided to back it up to somewhere
around Labor Day. And, again, I'm just -- I don't know of any hunter that I speak of in the Montgomery area that's for that earlier season opening. Most of them would rather it be later on in October like it was. And I would just respectfully request that the board consider moving dove season forward to October the 1st and running it consecutively --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone, please, Mr. Meriwether.

MR. MERIWETHER: I'm sorry?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you would speak into the microphone, please.

MR. MERIWETHER: Just move the season forward to October the 1st and let it run through the latter part of November and reduce the middle season or whatever it is now to just a second season, as it used to be, that maybe runs ten days in the month of December. Because that's generally -- I don't really know of
anybody that hunts that second season
because it's very difficult in this --
to have any tract for the birds
(inaudible) or the deer or whatever by
the time that season comes around.

That's all I have. Thank you, sir.

Thank y'all.

CHAIRMAN MOULTERIE: Thank you,

Mr. Meriwether.

The next speaker is Michael Hagood.

MR. HAGOOD: My name is Michael Hagood. I
live in Carbon Hill. I hunt mainly the
Walker County-Fayette County area.

In years past, you know, this state
accomplished some great things with the
deer herd as far as making huntable
populations in places where there wasn't
before. But in my opinion, the
one-size-fits-all deer management that's
being used in this state has run its
course and it's time for it to end.

It's impossible to believe that applying
the same seasons and bag limits to all
67 counties is the best way to manage the deer herd and provide what is best for the health of the deer herd and the men and women in this state that hunt those deer.

For example, where I live in Walker County, the deer density is much lower than in south-central Alabama and I am sure higher than other parts of the state. Yet all of these areas have the same seasons and the same bag limits.

I know there's places in the state that still have many deer. Where I live that is not the case and has never been the case. The deer density did not need to be reduced in Walker County, but that has happened in the last four to five years, applying the same management practices to this area as you have applied to areas that were overpopulated and needed to be reduced. No intelligent person can come to the conclusion that this is or was the best
solution to manage the state's deer herd.

If we have places where the deer densities are at an unhealthy level, then, by all means, make the changes that are needed to reduce those numbers, even if you have to go as far as having a doe-only season where no bucks can be killed. But in places where this is not the case, either limit the amount of does that can be killed or the season that the does can be killed in.

Most other states break their states down into zones and make decisions on bag limits based on what that zone needs and that zone only. Most of the hunters that I have talked to about this would welcome zones in the state of Alabama similar to what they have in the state of Mississippi, ever what would be best for this state. In zones that a later season would be beneficial, well, then, start it two weeks later and end it two
weeks later. In a zone that more does need to be killed, well, then, fix it to where more does can be killed. In north Alabama and places where there are few deer, you could shorten it in those zones.

To me, this is not rocket science. See what's working to produce the best results in other states and use it. We don't have to reinvent the wheel here. Almost anything would be an improvement over what we have right now in my opinion. That's all I've got to say.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Hagood.

The next speaker will be Edwards "Mack" McReynolds.

MR. McREYNOLDS: Thank you very much. I am from Oviedo, Florida, Seminole County. And I grew up in Dothan, graduated from a college here in Alabama and was in the National Guard here. And my wife and I had the fortunate opportunity on December the 15th, 2005, to buy a
gorgeous piece of property in Dale County. It's probably the highest elevation in Dale County.

And I ask you today that -- we, obviously, like a lot of hunters, make a sizable investment in this land, and we make a sizable investment in managing this land. And it feels like an outsider when I go in and pay $275 for a hunting license. And I would suggest that the Commissioner consider allowing property owners who live outside of the state of Alabama to bring in their paid tax receipt, and if their paid tax receipt is twice the amount of a hunting license of $275, then that person would only be allowed to pay whatever -- no more than an Alabama resident would pay. And that would provide reasonableness to the situation and it wouldn't penalize people like me. I was born in Mobile, Alabama, 64 years ago today. And I just feel like it's
inappropriate and unfair.

The second topic I want to talk to you about is, I travel from Dothan to Ozark hunting every day, and there's a meat-processing place I pass by when I'm going or coming. And I generally stop in there to get current information on what's being harvested and see what's going on. The first part of the hunting season I drive by, go in there and see Jimmy and, lo and behold, there's two button bucks laying on the floor back there. And I said, Jimmy, what is this? He said, man, that deer will probably clean out at maybe 16 pounds of meat. And I said, I just can't believe this.

Now, I own some property in Florida, which I work with the St. Johns Water Management District and sold a conservation easement on it. And we've had this property since 1960. So I've been in this business of wildlife
management for a long, long time. And
so that disturbed me a great deal. It
just doesn't look right and it doesn't
feel right in the belt.

So later on, a couple of weeks
later, I go by there again. Two more
button bucks just laying there and then
two fawns. And I'm sitting here saying,
has the Alabama wildlife management
program gone amuck?

And from what I can tell in my
experience from 44 years of owning
wildlife interests and investing in it,
I think we're making a serious mistake
by letting these animals be slaughtered
in this manner without any oversight.
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you,
Mr. McReynolds.

The next speaker is Brad Biddle.

MR. BIDDLE: I feel like the guy that got up
here and said something about driving
all this way, so I'm going to talk about
it too. I don't have a pier or any
turtles, but I would like to talk about
deer season.

I have a nine-year-old son, and he
is -- he and my daughter are my pride
and joy. And my son thinks it's really
cool to go hunting with dad. I went to
the University of Auburn, not a
university in the state of Alabama,
thank you.

I've hunted in Marshall County. We
own a farm in Marshall County. I plant
year-around food. I lime. I
fertilize. I fertilize undergrowth,
honeysuckle, everything the deer need.
There's not many people in here that
are -- that can remember when there
weren't any deer. I can remember when
there were no deer in south Marshall
County because they were stocked in
1985. We went from no doe days to three
doe days to seven doe days to 120 doe
days, two a day. The population on our
farm has gone from marginally hunttable to none. We have one of the largest plots of land at 120 acres. When you got a guy hunting 120 here and a guy hunting 10 here and 40 here and everybody is out trying to shoot some deer, the doe population goes away pretty quickly.

TV, the big buck hunter from Illinois and all this has done a really good job of educating the younger generation that does are bad. Shoot does. You got to kill does if you want to kill big bucks. Well, most of these younger guys don't know anything about deer management, don't know anything about habitat management.

If your population is below the carrying capacity of the land, shooting does accomplishes nothing. And I haven't seen a browse line in this state in the last 25 years. I have seen browse lines, but it's been 25 years
ago.

I've hunted in Marshall County this year. I have a lease in Tallapoosa County this year. And I've hunted in Cherokee County this year. I've seen seven deer this season. I keep cameras running 24 hours a day 365 days a year. On our farm I have one picture of one doe since September.

We're almost to the point of having to restock south Marshall County. I mean, I would propose -- I know that it probably still won't happen. I would propose a total ban on doe harvesting in south Marshall County and that general Dekalb County area. Now, Jackson County is an outlier. They've got different soil types. They've got a lot of deer. Marshall, Dekalb, Etowah, Cherokee, those counties --

MS. JONES: Mr. Biddle, time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let -- go ahead and continue just a little bit.
MR. BIDDLE: Those specific geographical areas cannot sustain the current rate of deer harvest.

A good friend of mine is in a club from Cherokee County. It's 1200 acres of prime, prime habitat, honeysuckle, greenbrier, great cover. From December 15th until the end of the season not one person in that club saw a deer. I went up there one day because I thought they had a die-off. I thought maybe EHD had taken the deer or something. I found one set of tracks in one food plot on that club.

You know, we've been wide open on killing does for, I think, seven years now. I don't remember for sure. I'm afraid we passed the tipping point. I know management is a swinging pendulum and you can go too far one way and too far the other. But, you know, I'm afraid that we've gone way too far this way.
And I'm like somebody said a minute ago. This needs some immediate attention. Because another couple of years -- combined with the coyote predation, our fawn recruitment rate is almost zero. I mean, Dr. Ditchkoff and the guys at Auburn and the guys at Mississippi State and Tennessee, these guys do extensive research on coyote predation. And when they say 60 percent of the fawn crop is taken by coyotes annually and then you combine that with hunters shooting everything they see, it doesn't take long to knock the deer herd down.

CHAIRMAN MOULTIE: Mr. Biddle, we appreciate it.

Mr. Moody, are you aware of this situation in Marshall County, ever heard that?

Whose district is Marshall County in?

Austin, if you could follow up and
get with Mr. Moody on that, too, and get some follow-up.

MR. AINSWORTH: I will.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All right. The next speaker will be Taylor Gilbert.

MR. GILBERT: My name is Taylor Gilbert. I'm from Priceville, Alabama, in St. Clair County. And I'm here representing the small game hunters, basically rabbit hunters.

And I strongly support the state's Wildlife Management Areas and Forever Wild and Forever Wild's field trials area, but I'm just as strong against extending the deer season as I am supportive of the others. Because as it stands right now, the rabbit hunters have basically what we consider a one-month season. That's the month of January. And it so happens this meeting is cutting out one of our days of rabbit hunting.

But all the deer leases and deer
hunters, they don't want rabbit hunters around during deer season. And so if they extend the deer season, that's going to do away with the small game hunters. And I'm not going to expound on the benefits of the small game hunters, such as training kids up the right way and so forth. But we'll talk about the negative of extending the deer season which I'm against. But we're not, I'm going to say, bipartisan, but we're willing to compromise. If they want to extend the deer season into February, then have a split deer season. Give us the month of December. They can have the month of February. That's basically all I've got to say.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Gilbert.

The next -- if y'all could hold your applause till the end of the public session, please.

Mr. William Smith will be our next speaker.
MR. SMITH: I'm with Mr. Taylor Gilbert. We're in the same group. We're all speaking on the same thing, so I'll pass.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much for combining on that. The board will take notice of that.

Mr. Jack Williamson will be the next speaker.

MR. WILLIAMSON: I'm Jack Williamson from Conecuh County, Alabama, the city of Evergreen, I guess, if you'll call it the city. I have been before y'all five of the last six years asking for the same thing. Change the seasons for deer hunting in south Alabama.

Mr. Guy, I read your reports, and I agree with them 100 percent. Do not extend the deer season. Do not make it one day longer. I think it would be detrimental to the herd. But we are not allowed in our area to hunt deer during the rut.
We have the native deer of Alabama, the genetics that were here when Columbus discovered America. They are late-breeding deer; yet the people that have the deer from the other areas, like Michigan, Ohio, Texas, have an earlier breeding date than our deer. We need to be allowed to hunt them during the rut.

I hope that Mr. Moultrie would support this on the same scenario that you supported the use of turkey decoys. I would hope that the other members of this board would also.

Mr. Hatley, I hope you would support it because it affects so many counties that are in your district.

And, Dr. Strickland, you're a big supporter of bow hunting in this state, one of the greatest supporters of it. It would help our bow hunters to open the season later.

And, Mr. Hartzog, the counties that are also in your district are affected
by this.

And, Dr. Shipp, you have changed the snapper seasons, the oyster seasons, and the shrimp seasons. Use that as a grounds to also change our deer seasons in this state.

It's just a sad state of affairs that we are not allowed to hunt -- the rut will start next week. Next week is when you'll see our bucks running in the daytime. You'll see scrapes all in the woods. You'll see them running all over the place, does crossing highways. We're going to have more and more automobile accidents in the next few weeks.

The season should and needs to be changed for south Alabama. It's a very simple thing to do. The gentleman talking about rabbits had the solution. I've talked to many of the people there. They say we'd give up the whole month of December for February or we'd
be willing to give up the first two weeks in order to have two weeks in February. I do not want an extended season.

Mr. Guy missed one social issue. If you extend the season, the divorce rate will go up in Alabama. So we do not need to extend it.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Williamson, let me interrupt you here for a second.

Mr. Moody, what do the fetal studies from his county show? When is the rut dates?

MR. MOODY: They're in here and I'll have to dig them out.

MR. WILLIAMSON: I can give them to you.

They --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Well, Mr. Williamson, I'm going to get that from Mr. Moody if you don't mind. I think we know your opinion.

Mr. Williamson, thank you very much. I think the board is well aware
of your situation and we're well looking into it. These fetal studies -- again, this decision by this board of seasons should be based on biological data, not human emotion of what somebody wants. And so I would encourage the board to look at the data presented by Mr. Moody's group, and then we'll make adjustments from there.

MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, sir.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

Okay. We're going to take a 15-minute recess before we get into the dog hunting/anti-dog hunting group. But be back promptly in 15 minutes.

(A brief recess was taken.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We'll get started again. I'm going to change the order. If the board will notice, I've got a speaker that had to leave, and the Chair is going to change him.

Our next speaker will be Mr. Charles Lawrence. Mr. Lawrence will be
accompanied by Mr. Schmidt. The board will notice they're trying to condense for us, condense the time down, so we appreciate that.

Mr. Lawrence.

MR. LAWRENCE: Thank you. I'm --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone, please, Mr. Lawrence.

MR. LAWRENCE: I'm Charles Lawrence from Titus, Alabama. This is Colonel Al Schmidt, and this is David Law. We are landowners out in Titus. And we are here to speak against dog hunting in the Titus, Alabama, area.

Mr. Hartzog is our Advisory Board rep, and we -- I have spoken to him and I believe Mr. Schmidt has on numerous occasions. And, actually, he told me that when we came up here he would ask the conservation officer to give him a history.

Our conservation officer, Heath Walls, is here. And Mr. Walls has
agreed --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay, Mr. Lawrence. We may speak on that in the new business section, but right now we want your comments.

MR. LAWRENCE: Okay. Well, go ahead, Al. You want to talk real quick.

MR. SCHMIDT: My name is Al Schmidt, and I thank you for the opportunity to be here today. I, too, live in Elmore County near Titus, Alabama. I have property adjacent to my friends here.

My petition, which is on the table here in the midst of this, has some 14 to 15 signatures representing approximately 1500 to 2,000 acres of land contiguous to my 150 acres that I live on and so on and so forth. The problem that has been going on for many, many years, but particularly difficult this year, is that dog hunters were hunting and such that the dogs came -- kept crossing property lines and coming
onto our areas.

My family and I are stalk/stand hunters. We have an Alabama TREASURE Forest. We've worked hard to do the right thing with our property. But dog hunting has been particularly difficult this year, but also it has been an ongoing problem.

The petition asks for the installation of a permit system. We're not trying to ban dog hunting. That's not my point at all. But I would like to see this board consider the installation of a permit system particularly for our area and perhaps all of Elmore County. But I'm not here to speak for the whole area. I'm talking principally the area that's -- and I have given a description of the boundaries of that property. I thank you very much.

MR. LAW: My name is David Law, and I'm also one of the landowners there. And my
property actually borders Elmore and
Coosa County. I own 160 acres there.
I'm not much of a hunter, but I do like
to enjoy my property without being --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone,
please, sir.

MR. LAW: Sorry. I thought I was.

But I would like to have the
opportunity to enjoy my property without
worrying about getting shot at from the
road from people supposedly searching
for their dogs. It's become a big issue
in our area.

It baffles me to know that -- one
side of my fence is Coosa County. If
you want to dog hunt there --

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. LAW: -- you must have a permit, but on
the north side of my fence -- on the
south side of my fence you do not have
to have a permit. And I just don't
quite understand why that would be
different.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. We appreciate y'all combining today.

Mr. Lawrence, do you have any final topic?

MR. LAWRENCE: Yes, I do.

I have a friend that has property in south Elmore County there in Redland, and there is no dog hunting there. And I'd like to ask the advisory committee why there's no dog hunting there and yet in Titus we do have it.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Where is there no dog hunting?

MR. LAWRENCE: In Redland, south Elmore County.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: What district is that?

MR. LAWRENCE: That would be Mr. Hartzog's.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog.

MR. HARTZOG: It's an area that's been closed by a previous board action.

MR. LAWRENCE: And just to add to what they said, I hunt back on Weoka Creek, which is our boundary line. And on two
different occasions I've had to hit the
deck where hunters from across the creek
were shooting at game that were in the
creek or on my property. And, you know,
again, like I said, it's causing an
unsafe situation, and it's also causing
a situation where -- we hunt ethically.
We do feed plots. We try to manage our
property. And, you know, once
dog-hunting season opens up, everything
goes out the window. Thank you for your
time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Lawrence.
The next speaker will be Justin
Brown.

MR. BROWN: If it's okay with you, can we
group together to save time?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Is he a speaker also?

MR. BROWN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes. What's his name?

MR. BROWN: Sonny Granger.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes. I appreciate y'all
going together.
MR. BROWN: No problem.

Earlier in the year I sent each of you a letter regarding our property in Coffee County, specifically in the Woodland Grove area. We've been in communication with Mr. Hartzog.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone, please, sir.

MR. BROWN: Sorry. Earlier this year I sent a letter out to the entire Advisory Board. I also included a PowerPoint presentation that I sent to each of you guys. I'm not sure if you guys got a chance to review that, but there's not a whole lot I can say that hasn't already been stated in years past concerning the dog hunting. It's an issue we deal with on a weekly basis, and we're tired of it. And we're just asking that this problem gets addressed.

It's not rocket science. We still hunt. We manage our land. The consistent perpetual trespassing of the
dogs on our property is just to the point to where something is going to happen, and we're asking you guys to address it. And like I said before, there's nothing I can say here that's any new information that you guys don't already know. Thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Brown.

Mr. Granger.

MR. GRANGER: Just to add to that, you know, this issue -- a lot of you have seen us up here before. This isn't the first time. This has been going on for years. You know, we respect the dog hunters and their tradition, but the problem is they're not respecting our tradition of still hunting by allowing the dogs to get on our property. It's a rampant problem.

If you'll look at the map, the large map that we printed out, that's our land, and inside of the yellow lines are the roads that are county and public
roads that are within our property boundaries. It represents 13 miles of public roads within our property.

And so I ask you to take a look at that and understand. There's -- in the other report you see the pictures of the guys lining the roads and things like that. Some of them are catching dogs. Some of them are actually shooting a deer. We do have a criminal trespass that occurred on the property this year. And, I mean, a lot of it -- a lot of things. We've had a rampant problem. It was literally every weekend, all the time.

Our tradition is a club that was started 40 years ago, and our club is in jeopardy because we've got guys who don't want to deal with the stress, who won't come up here and speak, because they're honestly scared. And they don't want to have the stress of that. They hunt for stress relief, not stress
addition.

And so what we're asking for is, at a minimum, that the permit system get put on the ballot to be voted on at the next meeting. We've talked to Mr. Hartzog about that, and I think that is a logical choice. South Coffee County has already been banned, so it's pushed it up on us.

The permit system doesn't take away the rights of dog hunters. It just forces them to police themselves in a way that's appropriate manner for that method of hunting. It gives the wildlife officers the ability to review the permits ahead of time and see where the land is and understand where the permits -- and it can identify conflicts ahead of time.

So we really strongly request, Mr. Hartzog and the Board, that that be put on the ballot today to be voted on because it's -- it's jeopardizing our
tradition and our property and our property rights. And we really sincerely appreciate that.

Also, we'd like to ask for special consideration in the permit system to establish a reasonable buffer zone --

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. GRANGER: -- on that property, a one-mile radius around our property so that these problems don't continue to occur.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Granger.

Thank you, Mr. Brown.

Okay. The next speaker -- and excuse me on the name -- Stephen Minhinnette.

MR. MINHINNETTE: Good morning. My name is Steve Minhinnette. I'm from Mobile. And I'm here today to talk about the dog-hunting problems we're having in Butler County.

Our sentiment is the same as the previous two speakers here. We have basically the same problems at our
place. It's been an ongoing issue for
many, many years. We've tried to work
with them. We've tried to work through
them. It never ends. They have no
regard for anybody else and we're tired
of it.

We've been in contact with
Mr. Hartzog, who's also our
representative. It's Butler County.
The southeastern portion of Butler
County doesn't allow dog hunting south
of Highway 106 and east of I-65. You
know, we would love to continue that to
the rest of the county. Go ahead and
extend it to the western portion. At
the very least, put them on the permit
system. Make them be accountable for
what they're doing.

We've got problems. And I stood up
here last year and asked for y'all's
help, and we didn't get anything. You
know, maybe this year is our year. We'd
appreciate any consideration that y'all
would all consider to us. Thanks a lot.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Steve.

The next speaker is Steve Pierce.

MR. PIERCE: Thank y'all very much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Gentlemen, dog hunting, true. Not condemning dog hunters, but when they get to where they don't have respect for theirself or nobody else, it's time to -- somebody to say something.

I don't try and condemn the dog hunters. Used to be one. Loved it. But at least we done it with respect for everybody else. The ones you got -- and all of them down around home -- I'm from Andalusia, Alabama -- are not that way. You've got a few -- just like anything else, a couple of bad apples rot the whole barrel. It's not right.

I've talked with the people in Enterprise. They said -- you know, and it's -- south of 84 is dog -- open dog hunting. North of 84 they got to be
permitted. I'm not saying that's right or wrong. Something needs to be done because it is -- it's dangerous for stalk hunters to go get in a tree stand, a shooting house, a blind, whatever. When you got people running on paper company land and they come right next to the boundary line to turn their dogs out, it's not the dog's fault. The dog can't read the property line. But when they do it -- and, you know, that's blatantly turning them out on private land. That's wrong. That's dead wrong.

I don't know what the solution is. I wished I did. Y'all got a hell of a job. I commend you for doing it.

And another thing, I have been in contact with our game warden. He has my cell phone number in his cell phone. I've told him about it. I've complained about it, groaned about it, whatever you want to call it, about the night hunting
where they go by and kill bucks, take
the horns off and throw the whole
carcass out beside the road. Seven
carcasses in five weeks in the same
area. That's ridiculous. There's no
excuse in it, gentlemen, none.

I wished I knew the answer to the
problem. I'm asking somebody smarter
than me to answer it, please.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: What's your area,
Mr. Pierce? What county?

MR. PIERCE: Covington County.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Covington County. Whose
area is that?

Mr. Hartzog, if you'd look at that,
please, sir. I'm sorry, Mr. Hartzog.
I'm not trying to pick on you.

Mr. Pierce, thank you very much.

MR. PIERCE: Thank you. Thank you, gentlemen.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Excuse me. The
Commissioner would like to make a
comment.

COMMISSIONER GUY: You brought up a good -- if
I could -- and it may apply to you. I know there was a TV report about carcasses being thrown on the side of the road, deer carcasses. And I don't know if that's what you're referring to or not.

MR. PIERCE: I'm not sure.

COMMISSIONER GUY: But, you know, folks, it just brings a bad name on what we do and what we love when we allow that to happen. We need to police ourselves so that if you know who does that kind of thing, you report them. It's not helping what we're all about when you've got people that are creating a worse public image of us because of the sport that we like, deer hunting, and they're throwing carcasses on the side of the road and then the news stations are reporting it and covering it. And it just comes back to all of us.

So I know that I saw a report here in Montgomery, a major news channel, and
it embarrassed me. And I just -- I just want to encourage everybody here that if they are aware of that kind of thing going on, report it to our officials, our game wardens. And if you know those kind of people, make them feel -- make them feel badly about it. I mean, make them not want to do it anymore, whatever you need to do. I mean, that's what I would ask of you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Pierce.

MR. PIERCE: Thank you, sir.

One more thing too. It's a problem with -- like I say, the carcasses being throwed out, that's creating coyote problems. You know, I mean, it's giving them something to multiply on. And people throwing them in the creeks, that -- I don't know how you feel about that, Mr. Chairman, but it makes me mad as hell.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: No. It's horrible, absolutely horrible.
COMMISSIONER GUY: We've got people that want to eat those deer. We have a Hunters Helping the Hungry program that we donate money to to process it. They don't need to be thrown in the ditches when there are people out there that need to get that food from our food bank. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

MR. PIERCE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Frank Sapp and, also, his wife Jacqueline.

MS. SAPP: He's hard of hearing. That's why I'm talking.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You go ahead.

MS. SAPP: We have some land in --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone, please.

MS. SAPP: My name is Jacquelyn Sapp, and we have some land in Geneva County and Coffee County. And we've owned that since 2000, I think. We bought it in 2000, and ever since we've bought it
dogs have run it. You can go out there and you can see dog tracks, deer tracks on all our food plots, everything.

The Coffee County one stopped two or three years ago. So they moved down to the back on the management area, up against the management area. And they put them in back there now, and they run down the back of it.

So he's -- he got two deer in 12 years still hunting. They -- we hear them shooting constant and the dogs running constant, and we'd like to have something done about that. I think that they're not even supposed to be on the Coffee County part. We have 20 in Coffee and 80 in Geneva.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, ma'am. Thank you very much.

Mr. Hartzog, if you'll take note, please, sir.

MR. HARTZOG: Sir?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's in your area
again.

Thank y'all very much.

MS. SAPP: They also -- one of our friends caught two of their dogs on there and took them to them. The name was Steve (inaudible). And I told the game warden about this. And he told -- he told my friend that he would put them anywhere he wanted to. He told them not to put them back on our property, and he told him that he'd put them where he wanted to.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. and Ms. Sapp.

MR. SAPP: One of the gentlemen that run the dogs in our property, he told my neighbor that --

MS. SAPP: I told them.

MR. SAPP: Okay. I'm sorry. I can't hear.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's all right. Thank you, Mr. Sapp.

The next speaker is Jerry Alford.

Who's the other one coming?
MR. ALFORD:  Jim Dye.

    All right.  I'm Jerry Alford, vice-president of C & W Hunting Club, northern Greene County.  We are a dog-hunting club.  We have 30 families involved in our club.  It's not a membership.  It's a family-oriented situation.

    We turn loose dogs every Saturday and Sunday.  No dogs is turned loose on our property without tracking systems. We know where our dogs are.  We don't -- we have rules to keep dogs from being turned loose within no closer than a hundred yards of our property lines.  We try to do our dog hunting the right way, and we support dog hunting for our community.

MR. DYE:  And to reiterate, my name is Jim Dye. We do try to hunt the right way. We employ the tracking systems.  We lease property and set it up strictly as buffer zones on the outer edges of our
property to give buffers so that we
don't -- to keep our dogs from getting
on somebody else. We have agreements
with a couple of landowners not to run
in certain times of day during -- during
the peak still hunting, mornings and
afternoons. We stay away from those
areas. We keep our dogs away from those
areas.

We enjoy dog hunting. We love it.
It's what we do. And, like I said, I
implore anybody that has a complaint
against us -- and we heard that there
were some, but none of them were ever
documented -- you know, to come talk to
us. If there's an issue, we're grown
men. We're not children. We'll be glad
to sit down and talk and try to work out
any situation or any problem and come
to, you know, an agreement like we have
with some of our other adjoining
property owners.

Like I said, we -- we just try to do
it right, and we want to keep doing it right. And I encourage and challenge other dog hunters to do the same thing. If you've got a problem -- if you've got a dog hunter that's a problem, cull your nuts, you know, do something about it so he doesn't ruin it for the rest of us.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The lack of y'all having a district representative right now, I will -- during the district board reports I'm going to address y'all's area.

MR. DYE: Okay. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank y'all.

MR. DYE: And if you can address that hyena hunting season.

(Brief interruption.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker will be Mr. Billy Bowden.

And if the next speaker would be getting ready, Christa Bragg. If she would get ready, maybe we can save some time here.
Mr. Bowden.

MR. BOWDEN: Yes, sir. My name is Billy Bowden, and I live on Sewell Road in Titus, Alabama. I hunt with a dog-hunting club. We have 3500 acres. Our land joins these other fellows that have the petition.

If they want a petition, we can get all the landowners up there to sign it because they're the ones that let the hogs on us. They come from across the creek out of a pen. You can see the pen from our property. And we are overrun with hogs. We have tried to trap them, and all we can do is get dogs on them. We killed four stalk hunting. We killed 21 with dogs. Then they moved. And it's just a problem. They're worried about the dogs, but if we don't have no dogs, the hogs is -- we're not going to have any deer. They're going to take care of the deer.

They turned out over a hundred
hogs. They said they got out of the pen. But our whole land is overrun with hogs. We had a seminar on it. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Jaworski, they had a meeting at Titus on it. And I own -- me and my family have a hundred acres on Sewell Road where they live at. So it's not like we don't have land. And we have a tracking system on our dogs, and we try to keep them off everybody's land. We do not turn them loose after three o'clock in the evening. And in the mornings we do not turn out before 8:30 to give stalk hunters -- if we get close to them, they'll have a chance to hunt. We won't bother them. There's big landowners next to us that's glad for us. Even the probate judge's land is close to us, and he wants us to kill them hogs. But like some people said, we -- I wouldn't think we can even control them. There's too many of them. We have a problem, a big
problem.

If it's not any deer -- we didn't have this problem till we got a cutover right over behind these people's houses. And that's where all the hogs was at. A six or seven-year-old cutover just like this with briars. And that's where all those hogs was hiding at. We went in there and started running hogs. Here they come out. They started cussing us. And then that went into, you know, different things. And I never went back down there no more. I didn't want to be cussed no more. I never went back down there. Let somebody else go.

But, anyway, that's the problem we've got. And, you know, we try to do right. We got a tracking system. We spent $3,000 on a tracking system to keep our dogs off of everybody's land. Them collars is $200 apiece. A tracking system is $400 apiece. And we bought four of them. And that's all I got to
say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Bowden.

The next speaker is Christa Bragg.

MS. BRAGG: My daughter, Madison, and Jerry Temple are going to come with me.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Who is coming with you?

MS. BRAGG: Jerry Temple.

MR. TEMPLE: Jerry Temple.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Hold on. Let me find you.

The very last page, Board.

Okay. Go ahead.

MR. TEMPLE: Okay. My name is Jerry Temple. I'm a member of Red Oak. I have been for 23 years. I'm also the secretary/treasurer for the Coffee County Dog Hunters Association, that chapter.

I thought we had a pretty uneventful year this year till right at the end of the season when I start hearing a lot of rumors that I didn't hear all through the year. So I got together and talked
with some people.

During the year, about the second or third week into the season, we did have an event where a couple of dogs got across a paved highway on the eastern end of our property. We hunt about 4900 acres all in one block. It's bordered by the river on the north side, 84 on the south side, a county road -- paved road on the east side, and a dirt road on the west end. They did get onto another hunting club that's a stalk and still hunting club.

Myself and one of our associates, the man who owned the dog, we had went to the southeast end of these people's property tracking those dogs. We weren't able to call one of the dogs out that afternoon. We came up on a couple of the members there at one of the gates and talked to them about it. And the man said he saw the dog and the deer that morning. He said, if the deer had
had one more point, I would have harvested it. He was a big deer, huge deer. They only shot three-and-a-half-year-olds or six-points or better or something like that.

So, anyway, they were not very excited about the situation, and so they went on and left. We were able to call one of the dogs out that afternoon to the paved road, and we tracked that other dog all that afternoon. The dog was pretty much in the same spot within a 40-acre area there. Never could get her to come out. Mr. German decided she'd spend the night that night, so he had to leave her.

The next day we went over there and checked her at daylight, and she was right there in the same area. So we went on and made the first hunt that morning and came back over there that afternoon. The dog was -- well, actually, it was around 10:30,
11 o'clock in the morning. Mr. German decided that -- seeing the gate was open there -- and, of course, we knew whose hunting property it was and understand they lease it. They lease it from the same people we lease 1,034 acres from. So didn't think that it was that big of a deal.

Mr. German decided to go in and get his dog. He's 68 years old. He's got a bad knee. He couldn't walk in there. He couldn't get the dog out. So thought that they might have the dog tied to a tree. That club has been notorious for catching dogs and not letting people have their dogs when they got them. And, matter of fact, several years ago two dogs were killed over there. The man did not get prosecuted because the Alabama Dog Hunters Association decided to step back and let his father cover the deal and decided not to pursue it any further.
Anyway, he went in there and got the dog in ten minutes. This man got upset. He called the sheriff. The sheriff come around --

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. TEMPLE: -- there. He talked to the man.

And it wasn't that big of a deal, I didn't think. But one incident, didn't see them the rest of the year.

I just want y'all to understand something. I know Grady has probably had some good retrievers. A dog to some of these people ain't no different than this young'un right here. If this girl knew that young'un was down there on that property, she wouldn't have to call nobody. That's her young'un. And there are some dogs here -- I squalled worse over some deer dogs that I've had than some of my family members. That's how much these people care about their dogs. And I'm the same way. I ain't no different.
But I want you to look at these issues. Do what you think you got to do, but I wish you'd take everything into consideration because it's going to be an economical impact on this state. The economy, the way it is, from the city government to Capitol Hill, y'all know what's going on. Y'all cut a thousand people out of license and gas and everything we buy in this state and it's going to have an economic impact.

Now, I can play golf. It don't matter. I can play golf nine months.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Temple, I'd like to hear from Christa, please, sir, and the board would too. Christa.

MS. BRAGG: Okay. I come --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: And, Christa, please introduce who's with you.

MS. BRAGG: I'm Christa Bragg, and this is my daughter, Madison, and she's nine. And I come to you as a mother, a wife, a hunter, and also a veterinarian. So I'm
a veterinarian who loves to dog hunt.
Madison has dog hunted since she could
walk. Got her first gun at five. And
she loves to hunt.

And what we do up there is -- you
have a red packet that I put together
for you. It's got pictures of the
kids. The kids are involved. It's not
one of those things where wives and
children only come one weekend a
month -- I mean, one weekend a hunting
season. We are there every step of the
way with our husbands, our families.
There's a letter in there from my child
about what dog hunting means to her and
several of the other children.

And then not only is it dog season
and hunting season we're talking about.
During the summertime of the year,
there's four-wheeling, there's fishing,
there's -- all of our children are
involved in that club year around. And
I would hate to see something like that
taken away from our children and them
not get to grow up in that same
situation.

I'm 40. My husband has been a
member of that club since he was as old
as her. So that's our family tradition
is those dog-hunting -- and that's what
we do. She -- she just enjoys it. The
kids enjoy it.

And then something else I wanted to
touch on, too, is at the end you'll see
a GPS map. You know, we do what we can
do to keep our dogs off other people's
property. We have invested over $2,000
in the new GPS system. So I know where
my dogs are every five seconds. There's
a -- on the next page there's an update
that shows you just a few minutes of
what it does. Every five seconds I know
where my dog's at, what it's doing. And
if it gets close to a highway, we stop
hunting. We're done. We're going to
get our dogs. If it's going off our
property, we're going to get our dogs.

Our dogs come first. And other people, their property is -- we do our best to keep them off of other people's property. And I just wanted to let y'all know that. I mean, we just -- we love it and it's a family thing, so ...  

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Bragg, thank you very much.  

Madison, what does your shirt say for the board?  

MS. BRAGG: It says, trust me, I hunt like a girl.  

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank y'all very much.  

MS. BRAGG: Thank y'all. I also went to the University.  

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Mr. Dick Dunn.  

MR. DUNN: Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. I'm a dog hunter. I'm Dick Dunn from Tuscaloosa, Alabama. I hunt north Greene County primarily. Our club is Spring Hill
Hunting Club. We adjoin C & W.

We have a large mass of land that we dog hunt, and we do everything possible to keep our dogs contained on our property. And we do a pretty good job of it, but occasionally we do have one to get off our land.

And we're pretty much -- we help each other out catching dogs. We run tracking collars on all our dogs. And used to, I had as many as 16 dogs. Well, I've cut down. I'm hunting five dogs. I can manage five dogs, me and my son together. And we keep them contained.

I've heard talk about permit systems or, you know, doing away with dog hunting in different areas. Well, I think -- you know, I've dog hunted since I was a young boy. I've got a grandson that's 12 years old that dog hunts with me. He is the fifth generation of dog hunters. I grew up in south Alabama.
As a boy, we always had deer, and I appreciate that. And I appreciate what y'all do for us to make sure that we'll have deer in my -- on into my life span.

But just consider before y'all make a decision. Because if you get complaints, try to get the dog hunter that's involved in it and the property owner together and hear both sides of the story at once. Don't get this hearsay over here and hearsay over here. Get a neutral person to sit down and talk to these people and try to work it out. Do something. Because I'd hate to see it lost. I'll probably quit hunting and probably go to rabbit hunting if we could get December.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Dunn.

All right. The next speaker is Kaelyn Fillingim.

Y'all better get ready.

MS. FILLINGIM: Hello. My name is Kaelyn
Fillingim. I'm 14 years old and from Coffee County, Alabama. I'm here in the support of dog hunting.

My dad, Troy, has spoken at these meetings before and is an avid dog hunter. He and I have hunted together ever since I can remember. We do everything possible to stay in compliance with the state's rules and regulations. This year alone my dad has spent $6,000 on GPS collars with Google Earth, shock collars, and whistle-broke dogs, not including hunting dues and food plots.

We own several acres of our own land and are actively involved in more than one dog-hunting lease. We are a member of Victoria Hunting Club which was started in 1968. Our club still includes seven of its founding members, three of which are in their mid 70s and hunt every day dog season has to offer. We also have several youth that hunt in
our club and have killed numerous deer throughout the season.

We cherish our dogs dearly and hope that we can continue our traditions for generations to come. We are very aware of the opposition that is here today. It is a known fact there were several violations wrote to still hunters in our area this past season. Victoria Hunting Club had no violations, and we strive to keep it that way. Many of our opposition do not hunt. Some own less than 10 acres of land and several don't own any land in our area. They're just involved in hunting leases, not to mention the ones that live out of state.

We personally own property that land bordering ours is being hunted by still hunters. An example of this is one of our co-hunters witnessed a gun barrel protruding out of a shooting house facing our property. This shooting
house is bordering the property line.

We as dog hunters are aware there are
still-hunting complaints as well as
dog-hunting complaints.

It is evident that our state is
struggling financially and the budget
for our Conservation Department is more
than likely declining, although a game
warden flew a state plane on
January 14th for approximately two hours
over where three dog clubs exist. This
amazes me that if my state can't afford
to buy me a new textbook, how in the
world can we afford to fly a state plane
for two hours.

We have never witnessed any other
hunters at these meetings having to
fight for their rights. It is evident
that other hunting practices are getting
complaints and violations in this
state. Is there any explanations why
they're not having to fight for their
rights?
To you, our opposition, you will need us in the next hunting battle. It will not be with the dog hunter but with the anti-hunter. I personally feel if our dog-hunting rights are expelled, we will not be here to help you in your next fight.

And as far as the permit system, if our dog hunting has to go to a permit system, then shouldn't still hunters have to go to a permit system?

MS. JONES: Time.

MS. FILLINGIM: So my question to you today is --

CHAIRMAN MOULTIE: Kaelyn, you continue.

MS. FILLINGIM: So my question to you today is, why are there not disciplinary actions being taken in all forms of hunting?

CHAIRMAN MOULTIE: Kaelyn, what -- y'all hold the applause.

Kaelyn, what school do you go to?

MS. FILLINGIM: I go to Zion Chapel High
School in Coffee County, Alabama.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Are you on the debate team?

MS. FILLINGIM: I am. I have been.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good job. Thank you.

MS. FILLINGIM: But could you answer my question, please?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you. Mr. Hartzog is all over it. Thank you, Kaelyn.

The next speaker is Lamar Giles.

If we would come to order, please.

Mr. Giles.

MR. GILES: Somehow I knew I was going to have to follow her.

Mr. Chairman, Board Members, my name is Lamar Giles. I'm secretary/treasurer of Old Union Point Hunting Club in east Chilton County. A brief history of our club.

It was started in the early '70s, and it was incorporated in 1978 -- I mean, May of 1977. We've been in this same location for 40 years as a deer --
dog deer hunting club. And in the 40 years, as far as we know, we've had one citation from the game warden. We've had very little problems. Most of the people that lived around our clubs were the people we grew up with and our neighbors. And we -- last -- this past season we leased and had permits on 4500 acres of land. We had 36 members, plus children and grandchildren under 18 years of age that hunt free. We had 36 paying members.

And two of our rules that -- probably the most important is, first of all, we allow no alcoholic beverages on our hunting club. And the second one is the rule that we abide by state laws.

Now, this past year y'all voted to put us on the permit system. And we did all of the paperwork, sent it in to Northport. And they had -- they asked us to meet with a couple of the conservation officers. Roy Wilson,
who's our president, and I met with
Cliff Robinson and Ms. Kathy, who is the
local game warden. And they explained
the rules under the permit system. And,
thereafter, we called a meeting of the
club members and went over the rules
with them. And we have done our best to
comply.

And we're just all family men and
members of the community, and we just
ask that we get to hunt the -- you know,
our traditional way within the law.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Giles.

Mr. Don Knight.

MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, sir.

MR. HARTZOG: Can I ask one question?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog. Mr. Giles,

if you could come back to the
microphone.

MR. HARTZOG: Does the permit system work?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Please hold your
comments. Only the speaker speaks.

MR. GILES: You know, it was our first year,
and I don't know if we've had any
complaints. I haven't heard of any.
But we're going to try to make it work.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Giles.
The next speaker is Mr. Don Knight.

MR. KNIGHT: Dan, I'm trying to decide whether
to run that little girl for governor or
give her my job as the state president
of the Dog Hunters Association. She
done an excellent job up here.

I'm Don Knight, and I'm the state
president of the Alabama Dog Hunters
Association. I live in Piedmont,
Alabama, but I hunt in Barbour County.

Mr. Grady, you have been threwed
under the bus today. I want to
apologize to you. I do know about all
these problems. About two weeks ago I
got me a pacemaker and defibrillator put
in my chest, and I'll be back trying to
help you here just as quick as I can;
okay?

I want to start with thanking the Conservation Department, whoever it was that gave a production crew out of Wisconsin my name. They wanted to come down and film a "Dog Hunting in Alabama" issue for the Outdoor Channel. They -- we worked it out. They came down the 6th, 7th, and 8th of January. We filmed an issue for national television on dog hunting in Alabama. When I get a copy of this, I will send each one of you a copy.

What I would like for you to do is look at it. This is the way we run dog hunting at my club and a lot of other clubs. I've heard a lot of things said today that go along with it.

What I'd like for you to look at, though, is the fellowship that we have in our hunting club, the number of people we have in our hunting club. We had about 65, 70 people there that day.
Also, I want you to look at the kids. Take a look on this tape. It shows how many young'uns we have down there hunting with us. Also, take a look at how many senior citizens, like myself, we've got down there hunting.

Gentlemen, you can't throw this away. You just can't do it. It's part of this country, and we need to keep it going. If you're going to -- I've been at this -- I'm 68 years old. I've been around a long time, been hunting since I was a little baby. You got to understand, if you don't get these youngsters between eight and 15, you're going to lose them. I'm telling you. I've seen it over the years. If you don't get them between eight and 15 -- because those hormones kick in when they get 15 or 14 or something like that and, buddy, their interest is not hunting; okay?

So just pay attention to that. Look
at our issues. A trophy hunt for our club is very simple. When I have a granddad, a dad, and a son and daughter there all hunting, that is a trophy hunt. Period. I love it. We try to have as many generations as we can.

On this filming of this show, we gave them a great show. On the Saturday that they filmed it, we killed two nice big nine-points and a nice big eight-point. We had cameras mounted on the back of my dog. Showed them jump the nine-point and it showed them going through the woods.

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. KNIGHT: Yes, ma'am.

Showed them going through the woods. And a 13-year-old kid kills the nine-point. It's wonderful. I'll wind it up.

Gentlemen, all I ask you to do is look at our tape on this hunt. Think very seriously before you put somebody
on a permit system if that may take them out of the thing or do away with any part of their dog hunting. It is important.

And can I just say one more thing, Dan?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very quickly, Don.

MR. KNIGHT: Very quickly. Okay.

That man that came down here from Wisconsin that was with me, the purpose of this show -- it's going to be Destination Whitetail. Excuse me. And what he was telling me the purpose of these shows are -- he's going all over the country filming shows of various ways to harvest deer. What he's trying to do -- what this whole organization is trying to do is get the hunters to stop fighting among themselves. When we hear things like we heard down here today, we're fighting among ourselves. We are the animal rights activist's best friend. We're doing his job for him.
Let's don't do that, people. I don't care if it's spear-chunking. Let's keep the people hunting. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Knight.

Okay. The next speaker is Rhett McCollough.

MR. McCOLLOUGH: Good morning. I'm speaking on behalf of dog hunting in Coffee County, Elba, Alabama, specifically.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Move up a little closer to the microphone, please.

MR. McCOLLOUGH: One thing I'd like to say is that we do all we possibly can to hunt the right way. With the aid of the electronic devices on dogs now, we are a lot better than what we used to be.

Now, with that said, it seems that I'm here again today to defend some kind of restrictions put on dog hunting. The main reason for this is because of a hunting club that has already been represented here today and a game warden. And I'm going to read because I
can probably do it quicker.

It seems that we're here again today to defend a method of hunting that has been constant in Coffee County since the 1960s. The main reason, again, is because of the game warden and a few out-of-state hunters that belong to the Hit and Miss Hunting Club. The game official has said many times dating back all the way to 2003 that he would like to see dog hunting done away with in Coffee County. And that's one of the main reasons I'm here today.

He has continuously caused controversy among dog hunters along with landowners versus stalk hunters since he was assigned to Coffee County. He cannot be trusted, and I know that from talking to him face to face. He'll tell you one thing and do the opposite. I strongly suggest, along with all the other hunters in Coffee County, that he be removed from Coffee County if he
dislikes dog hunting that much.

And can I recognize a couple of people?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you'll address the Chair. Who would you like to recognize?

MR. McCOLLOUGH: The dog hunters from Coffee County. Just have them stand.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you're a dog hunter from Autauga County, please stand up.

MR. McCOLLOUGH: Coffee.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Coffee County.

Very good. Thank you very much.

MR. McCOLLOUGH: Thank y'all. I didn't realize that many were here.

The Hit and Miss Hunting Club has been in our county for about 20 years. Awhile ago they reported that they've been there for about 40. That's not true.

MS. JONES: Time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you'll sum it up, please, sir.

MR. McCOLLOUGH: Okay. We've been there since
1960. We've been doing the same thing we do every year just like we do it every year. Except, like I said, we have improved. We do everything we possibly can to abide by the rules and regulations placed upon us. Nobody in Coffee County is for any kind of restrictions placed on dog hunting.

The club that was represented here today is surrounded -- I mean, surrounded by dog-hunting clubs. The two people here that spoke today, they knew what they were getting into when they came there. It's just like applying for a job. You know what the job entails when you apply for it. They applied for that hunting club. They knew there was dogs surrounding it when they came there.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. McCollough, thank you very much.

Okay. The next speaker will be Shaun Miller.
MR. MILLER: Good morning. My name is Shaun Miller. I live in Enterprise, Alabama. I'm here on behalf of dog hunting.

First of all, I've been here in this state probably six years. I grew up most of my life -- actually, 11 years I've been working at Fort Rucker. But I grew up most of the majority of my life in California where hunting is severely regulated and severely limited to people who have money. I was never afforded the opportunity to dog hunt until recently. I became a member of White Oak -- or White Flag.

I caution the board in regards to restricting dog hunting. It's the first time that I've had an opportunity to hunt with my son. And anybody I know that has small children, to keep their attention while you're hunting without some sort of gaming device in front of them is nearly impossible.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER IN AUDIENCE: Amen.
MR. MILLER: When I get --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Withhold your comments from the gallery. Go ahead, please, sir.

MR. MILLER: When my son and I get out of the truck, the excitement is there. He is afforded the opportunity to hear the dogs run through the woods that I was never afforded as a child. And I wish that you guys would keep this for him as much as it is an enjoyment for me.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

The next speaker is Susan Morrow.

MS. MORROW: Good morning or afternoon -- I don't know which it is now -- Chairman and Members of the Board. I'm Susan Morrow. I'm from Mobile County. I think y'all all know me except maybe the new ones.

I want to thank y'all so much for giving us those five dog days on management areas. That meant the world
to a lot of little kids and big kids.

And, yes, I brought you some more petitions. 923 names. Some of them is kids. But in your petitions there you will see one sheet that has some writing on it, and it tells you the next sheet has some ugly words wrote on it. What happened is the petition got left at Scotch Management Area, and the next stalk hunt, before I could pick it up, somebody that was in line wrote those ugly things on it about dog hunters. So I didn't -- the reason I included it was because I didn't feel like those people that had signed that sheet, their names should be excluded because somebody had done that.

But, anyway, I want to thank y'all. And I would like to ask y'all to consider adding another management area for dog hunting that has a lot of land. And, also, if you would consider looking at the Upper Delta, giving us two dog
days at the opening of deer season
there, because it's usually dry. And as
you know, the later it gets, the wetter
it gets, so the gates get closed. We
got to go in one time this year. So if
we could have the last two days or add
us two more days at the very beginning,
then we could probably get in there
because it's dry then.

So -- and I want to switch gears on
y'all for just a minute. I want to talk
about fishing -- saltwater fishing just
a minute.

This past year -- and I think
Dr. Shipp can verify this or he -- I
know he's aware of it. During the
Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo amberjack
season was closed. They had to take the
amberjack board out and put in another
category, swordfish. And while we were
all out there -- you know, if you fish
this rodeo, you're going to deep water
because you're out there to win prizes.
While we was out there fishing, we caught amberjack. That's all we caught. And we was not fishing for amberjack. But that's what we caught. Because they were hungry. And they were huge, 50- and 60-pound amberjack that we caught. And we bring them up. Had to turn them loose, because we could not keep them, and they died. And we did try to revive them.

So I would like to ask the board to look at having a special amberjack season for the Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo, just three days, because there's so many fish -- excuse me -- amberjack that was caught. Same thing happened. I'm sure Dr. Shipp can tell you. All the anglers I talked to and I saw out there, that's what it was.

MS. JONES: Time.

MS. MORROW: Thank y'all so much.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Morrow.

The next speaker is Debra Nicholson.
MS. NICHOLSON: I'll pass. It's already been said what I wanted to say.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much, Ms. Nicholson.

The next speaker is Wayne Parker.

MR. PARKER: Good morning, Commissioner Guy, Mr. Chairman, and Board Members. I'm a member of the Hurricane Creek and Victoria Hunting Club.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone so Tracye doesn't have such a hard time.

MR. PARKER: Good morning, men. I am a member of the Hurricane Creek and Victoria Hunting Club. I was born and raised in north Coffee County, hunted and fished all my life there.

Dog hunting in the community is a way of life. It is not just deer dogs. It is rabbit dogs, squirrel dogs, coon dogs, and lots of other sporting dogs. I also have bird dogs. I'm here to show my continued support for dog deer hunting.
We have five different clubs in north Coffee County, and all these clubs work in conjunction with -- in harmony and respect for each other. I have personally took the time to hunt with four of these clubs. I know what type people they are. I know how they are. I know y'all have been sent a package. None of these people is outlaws, believe me. A lot of them work with me at Fort Rucker and they have security clearances.

We follow the rules and regulations and all come together and implement them. All the dogs hunted in the club are required to have tracking collars or GPS collars. If one dog goes on one of the other properties -- we all have a standing commitment. All the clubs there, you're welcome to go in that club and get your dog. It's no problem. We have thousands of acres, many thousands, over 10,000. And that's the way we work
in harmony. That's the way we do it.

The only exception we have is with Hit and Miss Hunting Club, and they've been a problem since they been there. They're from Florida. They don't recognize it. And they talk about that nobody wants to come up here. No, that's not true. They stop and talk to me regular about turkey hunting and deer hunting. They tell me -- they -- and they say we've got three or four in our club and that's all that's really against the dog hunting, and I believe that. I believe that's what happened.

I have two daughters, also, from Zion Chapel High School, which y'all heard Kaelyn speak awhile ago. But I didn't bring them because I was afraid it would be more than y'all could bear.

So, you know, I mean, there is passion in it. She is about dog hunting. They were raised in it, and they love their dog hunting. And they
could tell you more about dogs than probably you gentlemen know, how they are and what they do.

I'm going to share a little story with you. On Sunday, January 22nd, 2012, me and my 11-year-old daughter, Savannah, decided to go deer hunting. We stalk hunt and dog hunt. I told her it was getting late so we would not have time to go get in a stand. So we decided to set on the ground. We had been setting there for about 15 to 20 minutes when a nice seven-point buck come through. We harvested a deer.

On the way home the conversation turned into hunting and fishing and the fun me and her had had and enjoyed on this trip. And I asked her did any of her friends in her grade hunt, and she said no. I was really surprised to hear this answer because she goes to a small school in Coffee County. I asked her why not, and she said because most of
her friends' parents do not have the money or land for them to hunt.

MS. JONES: Time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Sum it up, if you would, Mr. Parker.

MR. PARKER: Okay.

But, anyway, to make this short and stuff, this is what we are forced with today as hunters. We have serious problems with our youth. I ask you as hunters, dog hunters, stand hunters, still hunters, and group hunters to get together and take a child hunting and quit criticizing how other people hunt. Because if we don't do something about it today, I feel we may not none hunt tomorrow.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Parker.

Just set the microphone on the counter there, Mr. Parker.

The next speaker is Larry Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: My name is Larry Sanders. I'm from Pike County, Alabama, and I hunt in
Coffee County.

The topics I want to talk about today was we have the -- we have like the Wounded Warriors there in Coffee County, the county land. And we have -- I have talked to the commissioner in Coffee County, in that area, the representative there, and he said he is not against any kind of dog hunting whatsoever. All he asks is that we maintain our dogs. We do the best of our ability to do that. Like everybody's -- everybody's got tracking units, tracking systems and tracking collars. We're all aware of that.

But the conservation officer down there is -- the dog hunter down there feels like he's harassed. We go hunting -- if you see a truck beside a road, it's not because we're hunting. Nine times out of ten we're looking for a dog, trying to catch our dogs up.

You know, it's -- I've had people in
Pike County come to me saying that they're going to -- you know, the game warden down there said he's going to outlaw the dog hunting. And that's the topic that I wanted to talk on.

We had -- we had one incidence. It was my dogs that went through. And the lady at the cabin had caught them, tied them up. When I -- I rode over there to get them and talked to them, and the man said, well, just do your best to keep them contained. You know, we did that. I talked to them.

When I got back out, the game warden down there, he was wanting to check trucks. You know, he -- we wasn't even hunting over there. We were just trying to catch their dogs which they had tied up, and I rode in there and got them.

But that's what I wanted to talk about today. And I want to thank y'all for letting me speak. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Sanders, who was the
representative you spoke with?

MR. SANDERS: Kim Evans, Coffee County.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. If the board will note that.

Okay. Very good. Thank you, sir.

Okay. And our last speaker for the day, Mr. John Ward.

MR. WARD: Good morning, Commissioner. How are y'all?

We hunt in Fayette County, Alabama. We got 9,500 acres. We got a good club there. We got tracking collars on our dogs. We know where they're at all the time. But we do honor stalk hunters in our club. We all get along as a family. In our youth hunt this year we had 40-something kids down there that enjoyed hunting.

If you do away with the dog hunting period, you're going to lose a lot of revenue, license and everything else. Everybody's going to quit hunting. And all these young kids, what are they
going to do in between time? Nothing.

You take a young kid out there and
you put him in a dog stand. He'll enjoy
it. You take him out there in the
shooting house and they don't want it.
They want to hear them dogs run every
day.

You know, we're all human beings.
We all got to get along somehow and
someway. And, Commissioner, I hope you
don't extend the season. I hope you're
keeping it like it was. And I hope that
y'all don't do away with dog hunting.
Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Ward.

All right. That concludes our public
hearing.

The next order of business is the
Advisory Board district reports. I'll call
on District 1 first, Dr. Bob Shipp.

DR. SHIPP: Thank you. Along the coast there
are two principal issues somewhat
related, the residual impacts of the oil
spill and seafood safety.

There are still some spotty occurrence of oil along Alabama beaches, but these seem to be less and less frequent and of minimal consequence. Tourism has essentially returned to normal, and there are numerous promotional initiatives --

(Brief interruption.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Someone hand Dr. Shipp their microphone, please.

Thank you. Is that working?

DR. SHIPP: -- and numerous promotional initiatives to enhance tourism and related businesses along the coast.

Seafood safety continues to receive attention. Fishes with lesions have continued to be reported in the media along with inference that these are unsafe to consume. We conducted a series of research cruises last year principally funded by Marine Resources Division and with personnel from that
division. These were focused on so-called hot areas where lesioned red snapper had been reported.

We collected more than 3,000 snapper and numerous other targeted reef species, and only two showed lesions. These were sent to Auburn and determined to be of normal occurrence.

Additionally, the FDA conducted analysis on ten fish and reported no unusual incidences of disease.

In summary, our seafood is safe, and my personal belief is a lot of these reports of lesions are just trying to lay the groundwork for lawsuits. But I can personally guarantee you that our seafood is safe.

Research and development funds supported by BP are becoming available through a variety of sources, including 500 million over ten years in funding from the National Resource Damage Assessment Process. Penalties from
fines resulting from violation of the Clean Water Act for restoration funding have yet to be determined.

And, now, to address Susan's comments, I have bad news. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council met this week in Mobile to determine the seasons for red snapper, amberjack, and gray triggerfish. And while the final decisions won't be made until April, it doesn't look good. It looks like all three of those may be closed before rodeo. Unfortunately, that's a federal issue, and we don't have any jurisdiction for that.

My personal belief, again, is that the models are about three or four years behind. We have plenty of red snapper. We probably have enough amberjack. But at the April meeting I'm not too optimistic about the outcome.

Plans for 2012: The effort to ensure seafood safety and promote its
acceptance will continue, including an ongoing initiative aimed at that end. With funding from NOAA and the department, we will continue research cruises to further verify the health of our fishery resources as well as contribute vital data to the National Marine Fishery Service to improve the stock assessments of our key species, especially red snapper, amberjack, and gray triggerfish. Between five and eight cruises are planned during 2012, and all board members and ADCNR personnel are invited to take part in it. And I think the Commissioner and assistant commissioner have taken part in the past.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Shipp, I had a call that they were concerned that the bull redfish fishing in the last couple of years has degenerated on the Dixie Bar. Can you comment on that?
DR. SHIPP: That's not my observation. There have been -- there have been a lot of reds taken. Most of the "for hire" guys stop there, and they've had pretty good success. And there have been a lot of big schools on the beach. Some of the spawning aggregation show up in August and September. And I think the red drum or redfish population is in good shape.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thanks. Very good.

Mr. Hatley, District 1.

MR. HATLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I don't know where Don Knight went, but I'd like to commend him and his group. This is the first time, Mr. Chairman, in 15 years since I've been on this board that in my district I have not received one complaint about dog deer hunting. And I think that says a lot for the people who are sitting in this room and, also, for the Dog Hunters Association.

Over the past several months I have
met with hunting clubs and/or groups from Chilton County all the way to Mobile County and discussed harvest, management, rut, hog hunting, almost every aspect of hunting that we have in the state of Alabama. And I've gotten some outstanding rapport established, I think, and, also, have gotten some good and vital information that can help our department as well as this board.

I have one situation I would like to bring to everyone's attention. I got a call down in Monroe County from a group of hunters and said they had a terrible problem. So I was not far from there at the time and went down. They had killed a beautiful nine-point buck. They wanted to have it mounted. Well, when they brought it back up to the clubhouse to skin it, they noticed that in his nasal cavities, in his mouth, and in his throat he was full of worms, worms that were about the size of this pencil and
varied in length.

   Well, I had never seen anything like that. I immediately called Montgomery and talked to staff. And I had never heard of -- and, Gary -- if you would indulge me, Mr. Chairman. I would like for Gary to explain to this group -- and many of you may know, but I did not -- what nasal bots are. It frightened the people in that area.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Moody.

MS. MOODY: Yeah. I did not know you had had that incident. But nasal bots are fairly common. But the first time you see them when you cut in a deer, especially if you're fixing to dress one or something, it's not very appetizing. But it's simply fly larvae and then flies -- some species of flies will lay their legs on the nose and nasal area and the deer licks it in and they hatch. And that's where the larvae lives until it pupates and falls out.
So it's not harmful to the deer necessarily, not comfortable. The meat's not bad. But it's certainly not pleasant to look at.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Moody.

Mr. Hatley, are you done?

MR. HATLEY: I beg your pardon?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Are you done?

MR. HATLEY: I've got a lot more, but I'll quit.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Continue, Mr. Hatley.

MR. HATLEY: We had two other problems, which the Commissioner is aware of, not related to hunting, but in our area, in Gulf Shores and Orange Beach. I met with the homeowners association at Ono Island, and they were vitally concerned about the proposed boat ramp. But after talking with staff here at the department, I was able to alleviate some of their concerns. But they want to keep it monitored because they're vitally concerned about that boat ramp.
And the other area was Mr. Egbert and I had discussed the problems at the state pier, and I assured him that we were working on that problem, which we have discussed earlier in the meeting.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Hatley.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Hatley agreed to take care of all the boat ramp issues down there.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's good. Let that be duly noted in the minutes.

MR. HATLEY: I would like my salary increased too.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: District 2, Mr. Hartzog. We know you have been busy.

Mr. Hartzog.

MR. HARTZOG: Well, if you look at the report, the first of the issues that I had was the problem of Coffee County and Elmore County, and I think we've been well versed on those.

A couple of good things that have been very popular in my district is the
opening of the Barbour County Management Area for extended hunting. It has been very, very popular. A lot of attendance and a lot of success there. If you talk to -- I had Don Abercrombie, who runs the restaurant in Clayton, Alabama, saying that, you know, it was a good economic push. And, you know, the main thing is when you open up these management areas only on certain weekends, when a guy works shift work and can't get off that weekend, but by extending it, it has been very, very popular.

The other thing that still comes back to me every time I talk to a deer hunter is the popularity of Barbour County having the antler restriction. The gentleman that was talking about the button bucks and all, Barbour County, with having the antler restriction, is a plus on that.

And the last thing on my report is,
if you remember, I think about two meetings ago Joe Young reported the -- what he perceived as problems with lesions in the bass population in Lake Eufaula. Both Georgia and Alabama have been working on doing some studies. And, in fact, they had an open seminar at the Chamber of Commerce there in Eufaula about -- I think about a month and a half ago. Had about 150 people attend. Both the Georgia biologists as well as the Alabama biologists reported on some of the things they're looking at to improve the fisheries there on Eufaula. So thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Hartzog.

District 3, Grant Lynch, is not present today.

District 4, Austin Ainsworth.

MR. AINSWORTH: Thank you, Commissioner.

I've had a lot of positive reports on the three-buck limit. People seem to be taking more mature, bigger -- bigger
deer. And the only negative I've seen, that people want to see a way -- a better way to enforce it. And I think that's something we might need to look in to.

And on the fishing side of things, in October on Lake Guntersville, Paul Elias is a professional fisherman. He won the FLW Tour with an innovative new lure called the Alabama rig. And it's been great for the local tackle stores. They've been applauding it. They're selling them off the shelves as quick as they get them. And I just want to applaud the man that invented that. It's great to see a fishing lure that gets people excited about fishing and get them out on the lake. And thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Ainsworth.

District 5. Mr. Jones, I understand you're going to speak for Dr. Strickland today. Y'all have combined. Or,
Dr. Strickland, you're going to speak also?

DR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. I've got a couple of things to talk about.

CHAIRMAN MOULTON: Very good. Mr. Jones first.

MR. JONES: Thank you. Appreciate that.

First of all, I apologize for my appearance today with my discoloration of my face. There are two primary theories going around about exactly what happened. Both theories involves a piece of wood. One theory involves a four-wheeler. The other involves my wife. So I'll leave it to Dr. Strickland when he gets his turn to answer exactly what happened.

DR. STRICKLAND: He had a brow lift.

MR. JONES: Really, Mr. Sapp figured it out. He quit talking and I didn't, so -- a moment ago.

But in District 5 we've had a good year. It's been a less than normal year
from an activities standpoint. So I think things are going very positive there.

We have -- in Huntsville, Alabama, we have the 30,000-acre federally-owned Redstone Arsenal. Redstone Arsenal, being federally owned, consent -- basically they have to follow the Alabama template for rules, but they can basically be more restrictive on what their hunting rules are.

We had some user groups out there that had had some problems and asked me to -- and I've helped field some calls and worked with District 1 Department of Conservation officers to help resolve the issue. And it was easily resolved once the misunderstandings were done.

Duck hunting throughout the region was good but not great as expected or as hoped it would have been. The eastern part of the state fared the best. Gadwalls were in abundance.
Unfortunately, mallards never seemed to get here this particular year.

Spoke with several individuals for different perspectives. Spoke with people on February -- extending deer season into February. Spoke to people on the feeding and baiting issue, a tagging system as well.

Spoke with enforcement officers. Generally arrests were down. And primarily the arrests were for hunting over bait or for hunting without permission. I did have the officers -- and several officers actually said the higher fines on the hunting without permission seemed to help greatly. So that has gone into effect.

And, unfortunately, we did have a hunting-related fatality in Jackson County this year. So that was -- we were saddened by that.

Still a lot of comments, people -- positive comments for Archery in the
Schools. And that's a great program.
You guys do a great job of running that,
and that's introducing a lot of kids to
the hunting sports.

But that's my report, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

Dr. Strickland.

DR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. I'll just -- Ray, that
was an excellent report, very concise
and to the point. And I'm not going to,
you know, basically hash out some of the
points that you brought out. But there
are a couple of things that I would just
like to comment on.

One is our deer season. Like most
of the state of Alabama, you know, we
had an unusually warm season, abundant
acorn crop, and the rut just wasn't
as -- I'm not going to say maybe as
active, but most of the rutting activity
ended up taking place at night. So,
therefore, it looks as though the buck
harvest rate in Congressional District 5
was not as high as it has been in previous years.

But the deer that were taken were excellent deer. I got a chance to stop by and see several of the deer that were taken. You know, in Alabama we really have excellent deer. We're in really, really good shape. And one of the reasons we're in such good shape is just there's so much feed and mast crop that was available.

Myself, I actually harvested a nice buck in early January with my bow and arrow, one of the largest bucks I've seen. It was a nine-pointer, probably 132 inches. One of the best bucks that I've taken in Alabama. So I was pretty proud of that.

One of the things, too, I would just like to emphasize is that -- and Rusty touched on that. You know, our Conservation Department has really done an outstanding job in our part of the
state. You know, I can -- I can remember four or five years ago we talked about four to 500 citations that were issued for game violations. That has been cut down to less than 200, and the night hunting has gone away. And, Gary, that's really a testimonial to the excellent field work that your staff has done in that part of the state. They've done really an outstanding job. And that just happens to be the home of Joe Lindsey. Joe is -- he's -- you know, all the guys have really done an outstanding job.

I have gotten several reports from sportsmen in our area. There's still a lot of talk about a tag system. And I don't know where we are with the tag system. But, you know, even a sportsman and even some of the conservation officers feel that that's what it will take to really, you know, get the most benefit out of our buck harvest limit.
Also, supplement feeding. I've had a lot of discussion with hunters around the supplement feeding. There are a lot of hunters out there that are really interested in seeing that implemented, some that weren't. But there's probably more of an interest for supplement feeding.

And, again, I've had several hunters to call, particularly small game hunters, about the extension of the deer season. And, you know, we have a lot of small game hunters, rabbit hunters and squirrel hunters, in that part, and they really do not want to lose the ability to hunt small game in the month of February. And as we well know -- and it was emphasized earlier -- no one is going to let the squirrel and the rabbit hunters into the field until after the deer season closes.

But that's -- Mr. Chairman, that's pretty much -- it's been overall pretty
quiet. And we've had, you know, a pretty successful hunting season in the last -- 2011-2012.

CHAIRMAN MOULTERIE: Very good.

The next district, District 6.

Mr. Joey Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In the 6th District, we're small, so I end up with a large population that operates and hunts and travels to different parts of the state. So I get hit with some of the things that our other members have talked about.

We received a lot of calls about the success of the three-buck rule and the antler restrictions from many individuals and hunting clubs. They -- they killed larger and better deer. A lot of -- a lot of clubs and people experienced an earlier, albeit milder, rut. As Dr. Strickland said, it probably was at night. But mid December was when -- for about two weeks that --
the reports that I've gotten. More --
numerous bucks because of the programs
have gotten a lot of outdoors men
excited about the prospects of the
quality deer management programs that
the state -- that our biologists and the
staff is doing a great job with.

A lot of the residents of our
district enjoy saltwater angling. And
my hopes were dashed a few minutes ago,
but they were counting on a longer
season, more liberal creel limits for
red snapper and amberjack. But it
sounds like from Dr. Shipp that that's
not going to be the case. And I'll
carry that news home.

They're concerned always about the
seafood industry as a result of the oil
spill, and I've advised them to
absolutely buy Alabama, that everything
is safe, just as Dr. Shipp has stated.

I have received some complaints from
6th District residents that hunt in
different parts of the state about dog hunting, and most of that was from dog hunting that was done once the dog season was concluded. And I've offered those folks that just common sense and sound judgment prevail and report these incidents to your local authorities and continue to do that.

Also, I've had some concerns from some members of the district that -- about the boats -- derelict boats in and around the coastal waters of Alabama. And I've let them know that the Department of Conservation and State Lands have a program and they're pursuing legal remedies to help get these boats removed that are nuisances and hazards to navigation.

As Dr. Strickland said, there's a lot of debate about supplemental feeding and extending the deer season. One of the suggestions -- or several suggestions that I have received would
be to allow the supplemental feeding, license it and charge a fee for the privilege or increase the fines for the violations. I've referred all these folks on to the two reports that are online so that they can review those and gain further information.

As well, an ask for carcass tags for deer and turkey that could be purchased for a nominal fee to allow the biologists to collect valuable information as to the population of two of the most popular and important game species in our state. The issue fee or research fee or whatever Gary and staff decide or work this out to be would go -- would be specific to this research. And we're going to need some help to find a palatable system that's user friendly that everybody can take advantage of and be a part of.

But everybody I've talked to is thrilled with the way that things are
going and the job that our Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Marine Resources Division is doing, and I'm very proud of it too.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Dobbs.

District 7 is currently open. There were two very lengthy reports. After a long conversation with the Commissioner and because of the current dog hunting/landowner problems that have been talked about in Greene County and the conversation with Commissioner Guy, it has been decided that those reports on District 7 will not be read today and they will be turned over to the new District 7 member so that he may revisit those issues and present them at the proper time.

So that concludes the district reports.

The next order of business is new business. I'll start with Wildlife and
Mr. Harders.

MR. HARDERS: Mr. Chairman, Board Members, in your packet you have the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division recommendations for seasons and bag limits of the 2012-2013 season. Changes are highlighted in yellow. And you should have some updated sheets to put in your packet. Date changes to the calendar are not highlighted.

The proposed changes include dove season dates. Those will be -- our recommendation was to change them, depending on the zone, either earlier or later. Remove the bag limit on raccoon on private owned and leased lands. Extend the trapping season.

Change the legal arms for selected small game. Right now the way it reads is .22 caliber, and this would allow rimfire, which is -- let you use a popular .17 caliber rimfire.
Reduce the creel limit on smallmouth bass. Reduce the creel limit on white bass, yellow bass, saltwater striped, and hybrids. We clarified the releasing of caught fish by tournament sponsors.

The inclusion of Town Creek and size limit in Guntersville Reservoir. Amended the saltwater striped bass creel and fishing methods on Lake Martin and Lewis Smith Reservoirs.

Changed the creel limit on smallmouth bass on Pickwick, Wheeler, and Wilson Reservoirs. Changed the saltwater striped bass creel limit on Thurlow, Yates, and Inland Reservoir. And clarified shoal bass restriction for the Chattahoochee River.

If you have any question about those, I'd be glad to answer them now.

One other thing we have in your packet is our recommendation for the CPI, consumer price index, increase for license prices. As you know, when the
legislature passed the last license increase, there's a provision that allows us to look at the consumer price index every year and then make a recommendation based on that increase, if there is one, for license price increases.

After looking at the CPI change this year, the recommendation is roughly a 3.53 percent increase in licenses. And what that means is, for example, the resident all game hunting license would go up 80 cents, the annual freshwater fishing license would go up 35 cents.

But the process for this is for us to recommend it through the Commissioner. With his approval, we provide it to board members. You approve that at the next meeting. Then we move it on to the legislative review committee. If they're in favor of this, it will go in effect this next license year. If you remember, last year was
the first time we had a consumer price
index, and the license increased a few
pennies.

If you have any questions concerning
that, I'd be happy to answer them.
That's basically the new business unless
someone has questions.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We're going to revisit old
business. I accidentally went to new
instead of old. So we will revisit old
in a minute, but we're going to stay at
new right now.

MR. HARDERS: Okay.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All right. The rest of
game and fish. I believe there's one
more in there, Commissioner. Wasn't
there some other new business?

COMMISSIONER GUY: Marine Resources.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes. Marine Resources.

Chris.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you. In your packets
there were the regulations that we had
proposed. I'll just cover some of the
highlights on those and answer any questions that you have.

On the shrimping regulation, we wanted to add a provision to allow persons to take up to five gallons of shrimp from open waters when using a cast net. Currently there's no provision for them to take shrimp with a cast net -- or no limits. So this would allow them to do that up to five gallons. To better define the closure line in the Blakely River Channel. To remove the closed area within one-half mile of the shoreline in Mobile Bay from Mayday Pier to Point Clear. To better define the closure line in Perdido Pass. And to change the maximum size of the trawl allowed for bait shrimping to maintain consistency with the Live Bait legislation that was passed in the last session. This just catches the regulation up with the legislation that was passed.
In the oystering regulation, we want to better define the prohibition on taking or transporting oysters between sunset and sunrise and taking oysters at night. To better define what the oyster harvesters must do if they take the oysters to a shop other than the one that they declared to us that they were going to sell the oysters through our management station. And to remove the designation of harvest areas in the regulation. We define the harvest areas by opening and closing orders. So we didn't really need it in the regulation.

On the use of nets and harvest of mullet, there's no substantial changes to this regulation. But as you all know, we have made substantial changes to this regulation over the last several years, and in the process of doing that, some of the numbering had gotten off in the regulation. And so this is really
just to correct some grammatical and
typographical errors in the regulation.

The one thing that we did do in
there, to better define the closure line
at Theodore Industrial Canal. It
doesn't change the line at all. We just
put a GPS coordinate there to go along
with the physical description to make
sure it was plain to the public and the
fishermen.

The oyster season and sack limit
regulation, we want to change the
harvest times to exclude harvest on
Saturdays during October, November, and
December, and to reduce the limit of
oysters from 16 sacks per boat per day
to 12 sacks per boat per day. And those
were both requests from the industry and
from the processors. We have a finite
number of oysters that are available for
harvest, and they would rather have more
days that the oysters could be harvested
and sold through the processing shops to
continue to have that product on the market. That was a request from the industry.

And the saltwater fish creel, bag, and possession limit. We are proposing to add a 12-inch fork length limit on sheepshead and a recreational creel limit of 10 inches. To increase the creel limit for red grouper to four fish to be consistent with the federal regulations. That's an increase from two to four fish. And to add the sandbar shark as a prohibited species to be consistent with federal regulations unless the fisherman has a federal research permit for sandbar sharks.

On the crab regulation, you have an updated proposed crab regulation that was provided to you today. After meeting with the commercial fishermen, the crabbers and some of the organizations, they had some concerns about some things that we proposed. And
so we have agreed to work with them over
the next year to try and address their
concerns with our proposed regulations
and see if we can accomplish the same
thing without having additional
regulations on the crabbers.

But the things that we still
included in the revoked -- in the
revised proposed regulation is to close
Bill's Bayou to the use of crab traps to
protect threatened diamondback
terrapins. To better define the closure
line at the Blakely River Channel. And
to better define the required marking of
crab traps and crab harvest vessels.
Most of those are just clarifications so
that it's clear for the public and for
the fishermen.

And then in the open season/area for
the taking of live saltwater bait, Point
Clear area, the Coast Guard came in and
renumbered the channel that goes into
the Grand Hotel thereby making our
regulation obsolete. So we just --
we're just changing the regulation to
better define the area with the new
waterway markers that are there.
There's no real substantial change. It
just makes -- makes it clear where the
closure line is.

And I'll be glad to answer any
questions. Or if you read that and have
any questions over the next month, feel
free to -- thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Thank you, Chris. Are
there any questions from the board?
(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Any other new business?

Dr. Shipp.

DR. SHIPP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm
going to introduce a motion at the next
meeting, but I want to lay it out at
this meeting so there can be
discussion.

The one -- the first motion is to
have Carolina pompano be declared a
gamefish. I was glad to hear about the increase in recreational licenses. This will certainly help that if we make this a gamefish.

This is the one species that is a prime species that can be caught in the surf. It's one of the main targets for our tourist industry. It's less than one-half of one percent of the commercial harvest. And it's one of the areas where the greatest amount of friction between the gillnet industry and the tourist industry has occurred. Since it's such a small component of the commercial harvest, this would eliminate a lot of that friction. So I plan to introduce that motion at the next meeting.

The other motion is to increase the minimum legal size of triple tail, which is commonly known as black fish, to be increased from 16 inches total length to 18 inches total length. This species
recently has become very popular, and by increasing it to 18 inches, we will guarantee that they will at least survive through one spawning season.

So those are the two motions I plan to introduce at the next meeting.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Dr. Shipp. Any other new business?

Mr. Hartzog.

MR. HARTZOG: Two or three different things.

I want to remind everybody that Forever Wild comes up for a vote in November on the general ballot, something that we really need to really, really support because of the importance of providing additional hunting lands for our people. So be sure to do that.

The second thing, I'd like -- Gary, if you will look at the possibility of the Upper Delta, trying to add additional days for the dog hunters during the dry season. That Upper Delta is -- and I don't know whether that
would be presented at the next meeting.

I'll probably be unpopular leaving here, but I'm going to probably propose at the next meeting that upper Coffee County be put on a permit system and that -- I will get with enforcement and work out -- I will probably recommend that we put part of Elmore County on a permit system.

I know we've heard a lot of arguments about the pros and cons of dog hunting. I love dog hunting. But the problem is, is when you've got a problem and you know you've got a problem. And I think Don Knight will testify and several others. When I was getting so many complaints, I called them and I said get with those clubs and ask them to please behave, and yet it seemed like the notch was turned up. I got twice as many complaints.

And I know the comments have been here it's just with Hit and Miss Hunting
Club. But, I mean, I've gotten -- I've got a letter right here that I received yesterday that's not Hit and Miss. I mean, I've had a dozen phone calls this last week that was not Hit and Miss. So, I mean, we've got a problem.

And I know we had a trespass issue, and it was said, well, the guy's got a bad knee. Well, when you know you got a problem with a club, you don't go ahead and go through an open gate when you know you've got a problem with that club and just ignore that that's trespassing.

So it -- I asked the question does the permit system work. And we can ask some gentlemen here from Geneva County if the permit system works. It works. And we're not trying to restrict you from hunting, but we're just trying to make you better behaved and try to adhere to the rules. And that's the only thing we ask.
And so at the next meeting those two areas I will probably propose that those areas be put under a permit system.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other new business?

Dr. Strickland.

DR. STRICKLAND: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce a motion for approval of all Department of Conservation and Natural Resource regulations since the last approval.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. This is a housekeeping regulation that doesn't apply to the prior minutes.

Dr. Strickland, if you could read the motion one more time.

DR. STRICKLAND: A motion for approval of all Department of Conservation and Natural Resource regulations since the last approval.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Is there a second?

MR. JONES: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I have a second.

Any discussion?
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Strickland, read it one more time, please, sir.

DR. STRICKLAND: A motion for approval of all Department of Conservation and Natural Resource regulations since the last approval.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All those in favor raise your hand.

(All board members raise hand.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show unanimous.

Any other new business?

Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Youth hunting in our state is wonderful, and our state several years ago adopted -- very wisely adopted special youth hunting days for various different species that we hunt. I
really think, though, that we need to recognize, in addition to our youth, another fast-growing segment of our hunting population, and that is you ladies. I want to work over the next -- between now and the next meeting to work with the department and with the Commissioner to look at the possibility of adding a special day or special days for you ladies out there to help -- you know, you guys have your own -- you have your own camouflage now. So that's a neat thing with the Women and Outdoors programs that are going on. And there is nowhere that I know of in the United States where women have a special date like this, and I think Alabama needs to be in the lead, not following, on that issue.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Any other new business?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. With that, we'll go
back to old business. I will start with
the items that we show open from the
last meeting.

At the last meeting we talked about
fish with sores. Someone was going to
inspect the catches from the FLW
tournaments. Stan or David Hayden, do
y'all have any comments on that?

MR. COOK: We did have our district biologist
look into that. It turned out to be --
I hate to say routine or average type of
report, but it -- when you have a fish
population that is going through some
sort of cyclic event where you have
overcrowdedness occurring, it puts more
stress on the population. Therefore,
those common illnesses tend to show up
more prevalent in the population. And
that's what that was. But by
addressing -- trying to address the
population issue, we'll also address the
disease or parasite issue that we're
receiving.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Excellent. Very good.

   Thank you, Mr. Cook.

   The second was the Bankhead Forest
   WMA, a problem with hogs, restrictive
   rules, regulations for preventing
   resolution. Mr. Moody was planning to
   meet with the new forest supervisor
   arriving June 2011 to get ready to
   discuss rules and regs. Any follow-up,
   Mr. Moody?

MR. MOODY: We did meet with the forest
   supervisor, and we have met with him
   several times since. We've had multiple
   conversations about this.

   The issue was about getting access
   with traps into the wilderness area.
   It's not about the areas outside of the
   wilderness area. It's the areas within
   the wilderness area. And they're pretty
   adamant that their wildnerwildernesses
   not allow any kind of mechanized device
   period within these areas, fire or
   otherwise. It's all -- you go in --
walk in by hand. You do it by hand.
And we have talked. And we're not
through talking. And we will continue
to do so. But there are some law issues
in addition to what regulatory issues
there are. So there is nothing really
changed, but we do continue to discuss
the issue with them.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good.

Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Moody, did you ever get ahold of
the congressional representatives for
those districts and ask them to become
involved to help that gentleman out who
was so adamant about the destruction of
the floor fauna, the trails and
everything?

MR. MOODY: No, we have not. We've been
working strictly with Forest Service
personnel.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next issue open was a
property line/safety issue that has been
discussed over the last two meetings.

Commissioner Guy, I think you have some follow-up.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Yeah. We brought this up last year. I know I've had about 20 phone calls about hunters hunting on someone else's property line.

I don't know about everybody else. One of the things I want to do by talking about this a little more is get some feedback on this particular issue. In my mind it's a safety issue.

This year we've had quite a few people who were shot. That's not necessarily just a property line issue. That is just a hunter safety issue that we all need to be more aware of what we're doing. But, certainly, when there are people hunting on property lines, the property owners on the other side, for instance, are very intimidated by the ability to walk around on their
property, whether they have hunter orange on or not.

I think we need to look at this issue. If we save one life, it's worth it. And we all need to be cognizant about the fact of whether we need to be hunting on a property line.

In that regard, I think we need to consider a minimum yardage off a property line unless -- which is an exception that I think anybody could live with -- you have permission from the adjoining landowner or lessee. If that adjoining landowner or lessee has no problem with you having a hunting stand within a particular distance -- I think the distance is something we need to look at, but probably as much as 50 yards -- then I think that doesn't cause a problem. On the other hand, you know, if that landowner has a problem, you know, then we probably need to have a regulation that prevents you from doing
that.

I think the issue here is hunter safety, and that's all it's about. And we need to be particularly aware about our children -- as not only ourselves, but our children, too, who might be within an area that's very close to a property line.

So that goes back to a couple of different things, wearing hunter orange and making sure you know what you're shooting at. But that's my kind of report on that.

Mr. Chairman, I think what we'll do is consider getting feedback from everyone on that and then possibly have a proposal to be in the form of a motion if the feedback is positive, or we can discuss it at the next meeting with a motion.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That would be great. And I think the board -- to be aware, I believe there's already two instances of
something sort of like this. There is a limit from a house.

It's a hundred yards, is that correct, from a residence?

There is no shooting over property lines; isn't that correct?

There's something about property lines, I think. And then there's another issue of 50 yards off a public road; is that correct?

So these kind of issues are in effect already.

Mr. Hartzog.

MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman, when you and I were talking the other day and that particular subject came up, we also -- I've had several instances of major injuries from safety belts not being used in tree stands. So I would really love to see us look at adding some type of regulation to help protect the people from --

(Brief interruption.)
MR. HARTZOG: So we would like to include that, please, Gunter.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you could get that information to the Commissioner.

Mr. Hatley.

MR. HATLEY: If these things can be worked out before our next meeting, all those objections and proponents, including a motion, I certainly will be prepared to present that in the form of a motion at our next meeting.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That would be great.

Thank you, Mr. Hatley.

Okay. There was one other old business item, and I don't know if anything has been done or hasn't been done, Mr. Hayden, on setting dog deer days on WMAs for different days not yet addressed. Anything to follow up on that, Mr. Hayden?

MR. HAYDEN: Well, as you know, we did add additional days to the areas that we had dog hunting on last year. We'll take a
look at the request we had today and see
if we might be able to do anything
else.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That would be great. It
sounded like they were very well pleased
with what you did last year.

MR. HAYDEN: Yes. We had a number of "thank
yous" for adding days.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good.

Okay. Any other old business at
this time?

Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: I was just going to add that
Ms. Morrow asked for an additional --
for additional days on the wildlife
management area, but she didn't define
that management area or I didn't hear
it.

She said the Upper Delta, but she
said another one as well. Did I
misunderstand?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Ms. Morrow.

MS. MORROW: No, sir. I said to look at
opening another management area up for
dog hunting.

MR. DOBBS: Right. As well as the Upper
Delta?

MS. MORROW: Yes.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Any other old
business from the board?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next order of
business is the date and location of the
next Advisory Board meeting. The date
will be March 10th, 2012, and the
location will be here again in
Montgomery, Alabama.

Being there is no further business,
this meeting stands adjourned.

(Meeting adjourned at
approximately 12:40 p.m.)

* * * * * * * * * *

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

* * * * * * * * * *

STATE OF ALABAMA:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY:
I, Tracye Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large, do hereby certify that I reported the foregoing proceedings of the Forever Wild Board Meeting on February 4, 2012.

The foregoing 215 computer-printed pages contain a true and correct transcript of the proceedings held.

I further certify that I am neither of kin nor of counsel to the parties to said cause nor in any manner interested in the results thereof.

This 5th day of March 2012.

___________________________

Tracye Sadler Blackwell
ACCR No. 294
Expiration date: 9-30-2012
Certified Court Reporter
and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large